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Four Additional Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Livingston County, IL – Brings Total to 15

Livingston County, IL – Four more residents of Livingston County have tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus disease), including one of the Illinois Department of Corrections. Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) officials were notified of the new COVID-19 cases on April 9, 2020, according to state and local public health protocol. The individuals include a female in her 40s, a female in her 60s, and male in his 50s all recovering at home in isolation. Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) is also reporting one confirmed case at Pontiac Correctional Center.

LCHD officials continue to work closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and have investigated and notified any individuals who may have had exposure to these individuals who tested positive for COVID-19.

As of April 9, 2020, the LCHD has received 127 COVID-19 test results. Of that, 14 COVID-19 tests have been confirmed positive and 112 tests confirmed negative, with one additional confirmed positive being reported by IDOC at Pontiac Correctional Center. Five of the previously reported confirmed cases have recovered.

In an effort to increase efficiency in testing, the LCHD is no longer required to give authorization for COVID-19 testing; therefore, the health department may not be aware of all tests that have been submitted and can no longer report pending test results. It still stands, however, that should a COVID-19 test be confirmed positive, the LCHD is notified immediately so that they may monitor the individual, as well as notify and investigate his/hers close contacts.

Recently, changes were made in IDOC's communicable disease reporting procedures as it relates to COVID-19 cases. Typically, IDOC operates their own communicable disease efforts and are separate from the county where a prison may be located; however, new guidance states that IDOC will report confirmed COVID-19 cases to local health officials so that counties may include them in their totals.

Community members can track confirmed cases of COVID-19 by zip code on IDPH's website: dph.illinois.gov/COVID19/STATISTICS. Please note, due to privacy concerns, zip codes with five cases or less are not included. It should be assumed that COVID-19 exposure can occur in any community, so people should continue to take actions that help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The health and safety of Livingston County residents remains the highest priority for county health officials. All partners and organizations involved in the COVID-19 response remain fully prepared to respond to COVID-19 cases. Public health, hospital systems, and first responders maintain highly trained infection control teams, specialized equipment, and protocols consistent with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Individuals who have questions or concerns about COVID-19 may contact the IDPH Hotline at 1-800-889-3931, or 2-1-1 for general questions and referrals for resources, including mental health. Up-to-date information can also be found on IDPH's website as well as the LCHD's website for information specific to Livingston County, IL.

Drive-thru COVID-19 testing is now available for eligible Central Illinoisans at the McLean County Fairgrounds (1106 Interstate Drive, Bloomington). This community-based testing site will operate from 9am - 5pm every day and is able to test up to 250 eligible people per day. Those eligible for testing include **symptomatic** individuals the designated priority groups. Priority groups one & two include: healthcare workers, first responders, seniors (65+), and individuals with underlying medical conditions. Priority group three includes: critical infrastructure workers, healthcare facility workers, and any individual experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath. Please note, individuals who have taken fever-reducing medicines within six hours before arrival at the testing site will not be eligible to be tested.

Assume COVID-19 is in every community. Because people can be carriers of the virus prior to experiencing symptoms, everyone should be presumed to be carriers of the COVID-19 virus.

Residents are strongly encouraged to adhere to all of the required precautions necessary to protect their families and the community, slowing the spread of COVID-19:

- **Stay home except for essential business, regardless of whether a person is experiencing symptoms.**
- Practice social distancing, making sure to stay 6' from others when in public.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If you're sick at home, do your best to self-isolate from others living in the home.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a cleaning spray with at least 70% alcohol or a bleach/water solution using a ratio of 1:10.
- If you have experience a cough, difficulty breathing, or a fever, stay home. If your symptoms worsen, call your healthcare provider **before** leaving your house so that you may be evaluated and provide further direction.

For Livingston County residents age 60 or older, homebound with no assistance and in need of essential care items, such as food, medical supplies, or personal hygiene products, please the LCHD at 815-844-7174 x230.

The LCHD will continue to work diligently to meet the everyday needs of county residents while aggressively addressing the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

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