



Ford County Public Health Department

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For Immediate Release

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Ford County Public Health Department Reminding Residents of Requirements of the Stay at Home Executive Order

On Wednesday, April 1st, Governor Pritzker extended the Stay at Home Order through Thursday, April 30th. The order prohibits things like visiting other people's homes (except to provide care or supplies) and gatherings of more than 10 people and closes all nonessential establishments, including most retail, recreation, and entertainment businesses.

Ford County Public Health Department (FCPHD) is reminding residents the order requires Illinoisans to abstain from all nonessential activities until the order has expired or is canceled. "The Stay at Home Order is challenging for many people, especially during the Spring season when the weather is warming up," says Community Health Educator, Danielle Walls. Walls adds, "While it's tempting to have a garage sale, host a barbecue, or get a team together to play basketball, for your safety, as well as the safety of those in your community, you should remain at home to help fight the spread of COVID-19."

With spring activities in mind, FCPHD stresses hosting or attending yard or garage sales is a non-essential function and prohibited at this time. These types of activities encourage social gatherings and do not allow for social distancing, which can increase the spread of COVID-19. FCPHD also cautions residents about the risks of buying or selling individual items online. Personal items from one's home that would otherwise be sold or purchased at a yard or garage sale is a non-essential function. Facebook garage sale and area trading post groups are wonderful ways to buy and sell but please refrain from these activities also. There is no way to know if who you are buying from has COVID-19 or has been exposed to it. When a transaction is essential, and delivery or pick-up is required, be sure to maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet between you and others), wash/disinfect objects received, and avoid touching your face until the object and your hands have been washed.

Residents should continue following the stay-at-home order by only leaving the home for essential tasks like grocery shopping, receiving medical care, or taking your pet for a walk. While exercising outside, individuals should still practice social distancing by running or walking at least six feet away from other people. Use the telephone, email, social media, and other technological tools to stay in contact with one another.

For more information about the stay-at-home order, visit the State of Illinois Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response website at <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>. For additional COVID-19 information, visit FCPHD's website (www.fordcountyphd.org) and follow our Facebook page.