



Ford County Public Health Department

235 North Taft Street

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Ford County, IL Daily COVID-19 Update

Ford County Public Health Department (FCPHD) is announcing no new cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Ford County has a total of eight confirmed cases, including one death. Two of the confirmed cases are associated with congregate living facilities. These numbers are accurate as of the release time. Public health officials continue to investigate and contact all individuals who may have had exposure to individuals that tested positive for COVID-19. Federal privacy restrictions prohibit the release of any further information.

FCPHD continues to encourage all residents to conduct preventive measures, practice social distancing, and follow Governor Pritzker's Stay at Home Executive Order, which will be extended through May 30, 2020. COVID-19 appears to spread from person-to-person mainly with close contact (less than 6 feet), but may also be spread by a surface that has the virus and then touching one's mouth, nose, or possibly one's eyes. Illinois Department of Public Health states that the spread is through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Face Covering Requirement

Last week, Governor Pritzker announced an extension of the state's stay-at-home order until May 30, 2020. The governor plans to sign that executive order this week and it will take effect on May 1, 2020. The order will also include a requirement for people to wear a face covering or mask at work or in public spaces where 6-foot social distancing cannot be maintained. This new requirement will apply to all individuals over the age of two and those able to medically tolerate a face covering.

What type of mask do I need?

It is recommended that the general public wear cloth face coverings. A cloth face covering is a material that should cover the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It should fit snug on each side of the face and not be loose fitting with gaps. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, bandanas, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders.

FCPHD wants to remind everyone that the use of a face covering is an extra step in the prevention of getting or spreading COVID-19. Please continue to maintain social distancing, wash your hands often, avoid touching your face, and only leave home for essential tasks or work. For more information about the use of a cloth face covering and how to make your own, visit the following:

- Centers for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- U.S. Surgeon General's How to Make Your Own Face Covering - <https://youtu.be/tPx1yqvJgf4>

We ask that you continue to visit our website (www.fordcountyphd.org) and follow our Facebook page for additional COVID-19 resources and updates. For general questions about COVID-19, call the Illinois Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Hotline at 1(800) 889-3931 or send an email to: DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.