



Ford County Public Health Department

235 North Taft Street

Paxton, IL 60957

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Ford County, IL Daily COVID-19 Update

Ford County Public Health Department (FCPHD) is announcing one new case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The individual is a male in his 40's.

Ford County has a total of 12 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 has been 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 coverings and children during COVID-19

Effective May 1, all Illinoisans must wear a face covering or mask in public places where a six-foot social distance cannot be maintained. This new requirement applies to individuals **over age two** and **able to medically tolerate a face covering**. This new requirement can be challenging for many parents and guardians, as wearing a face covering can be strange or scary to some children. Some young children may feel uneasy about wearing a mask, but with patience and support, adults can help children understand why they might need to wear a mask and make them more comfortable and even fun to wear.

The American Academy of Pediatrics offers a few ideas that may help children become more comfortable with wearing a mask:

- Look in the mirror with the face coverings on and talk about it.
- Put a cloth face covering on a favorite stuffed animal.
- Decorate them so they are more personalized and fun.
- Show your child pictures of other children wearing them.
- Draw one on their favorite book character.
- Practice wearing the face covering at home to help your child get used to it.

What about children with special health care needs?

Children with severe cognitive or respiratory impairments may have a hard time tolerating a cloth face covering. For these children, a face covering may not be appropriate. Contact your child's health care provider for guidance.

As a reminder, staying home and social distancing is still the best way to protect your family from COVID-19.

We ask that you 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.