



Ford County Public Health Department

235 North Taft Street

Paxton, IL 60957

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Ford County, IL COVID-19 Update

Ford County Public Health Department (FCPHD) is reporting no new confirmed cases today. Ford County has a total of 21 confirmed cases. There has been one COVID-19 related death. Three 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.

- For zip code level information on confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, please visit IDPH Virtual map at: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid19-statistics>. Please note, data will not be shown unless a zip code has six or more confirmed cases. This is consistent with Collection, Disclosure, and Confidentiality of Health Statistics (77 Ill. Adm. Code 1005). Zip code area 60957 is now being reported.
- For information on long term care facilities with cases of COVID-19 among residents and staff, please visit: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/long-term-care-facility-outbreaks-covid-19>. Information provided at this link is provisional, subject to change, and updated weekly. Facilities report data to their local health departments, which in-turn report to IDPH, so lag time and discrepancies are to be expected.

COVID-19 Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is a tool that has been used by local and state health departments for decades and is a key strategy for preventing further spread of COVID-19.

- The process begins by interviewing people who have tested positive for the virus to create a list of individuals with whom they have been in contact with while they may have been infectious.
- Public health staff begin contact tracing by warning these exposed individuals (contacts) of their potential exposure. To protect patient privacy, contacts are only informed that they may have been exposed to a patient with the infection. They are not told the identity of the patient who may have exposed them.
- Contacts are provided with education, information, and support to understand their risk, what they should do to separate themselves from others who are not exposed, monitor themselves for illness, and the possibility that they could spread the infection to others even if they do not feel ill.
- Contacts are encouraged to stay home and maintain social distance from others (at least 6 feet) until 14 days after their last exposure in case they also become ill. Public health officials stay in touch with these individuals to provide support and track the progression of any symptoms throughout the course of an illness.

Contact Tracing in Illinois

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is seeking interested individuals to support local public health authorities to perform COVID-19 contact tracing. Hiring Contact Tracers will depend on the needs of local public health authorities and by region of the state. Those interested in becoming a contact tracer should complete the *IDPH Contact Tracing Interest Form*, which can be found at: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19>. Individuals may also complete, *Making Contact: A Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracers*, an introductory online course for entry-level COVID-19 contact tracers. The training is free and accessible to anyone who registers. The training can be accessed at: https://learn.astho.org/p/ContactTracer#tab-product_tab_overview.