Ford County Public Health Department
235 North Taft Street
Paxton, IL 60957

For release on June 12, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Danielle Walls, Community Health Educator
(217)379-9281
dwalls@fordcountyphd.org

Ford County, IL COVID-19 Update

Ford County Public Health Department (FCPHD) is announcing one new confirmed case today. The individual is a female in her 80's.

Ford County has a total of 23 confirmed cases. There has been one COVID-19 related death. 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 and Animals – What You Need to Know
A small number of pets worldwide, including cats and dogs, have been reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. This has occurred mostly after close contact with people infected with the virus. Confirmed cases have been reported in two pet cats and one pet dog in the United States. Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low. It appears that the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread from people to animals in some situations.

- If a person inside the household becomes sick, isolate that person from everyone else, including pets. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wear a cloth face covering and wash your hands before and after you interact with them.
- If you are sick with COVID-19 and your pet becomes sick, do not take your pet to the veterinary clinic yourself. Call your veterinarian and let them know you have been sick with COVID-19. Some veterinarians may offer telemedicine consultations or other plans for seeing sick pets. Your veterinarian can evaluate your pet and determine the next steps for your pet's treatment and care.

Because all animals can carry germs that can make people sick, it is always a good idea to practice healthy habits around pets and other animals.

- Wash your hands after handling animals, their food, waste, or supplies.
- Practice good pet hygiene and clean up after pets properly.
- Talk to your veterinarian if you have questions about your pet's health.
- Be aware that children 5 years of age and younger, people with weakened immune systems, and people 65 years of age and older are more likely to get sick from germs some animals can carry.