



Ford County Public Health Department

235 North Taft Street

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Ford County, IL COVID-19 Update

Ford County, IL - The Ford County Public Health Department (FCPHD) is updating the format for sharing of data on COVID-19 to provide a more comprehensive look at the pandemic in Ford County. The new format will begin today and will include the addition of "probable" cases to the "confirmed" case counts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently recommended states begin providing these two new data sets.

Confirmed Cases vs Probable Cases

- A **confirmed case** is an individual who had a confirmatory viral test performed by way of a throat or nose swab and that specimen tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, which is the virus that causes COVID-19. A positive viral test, also called a PCR test or molecular test, alone is enough to classify a confirmed case.
- A **probable case** is an individual who has not had a confirmatory viral test performed but meets specific criteria. For example, an individual may have a positive antigen or antibody test and experience symptoms of COVID-19.

Both confirmed and probable cases are treated the same with regards to isolation and contact tracing. For more information about case definitions and criteria, please visit: <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/case-definition/2020/>.

FCPHD is announcing that one of the previously reported cases did not meet the criteria for a confirmed or probable case. Therefore, Ford County has a total of 42 cases. Of those, 32 cases are confirmed and 10 are probable cases. There has been one confirmed 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. All close contacts are asked to self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19. Federal privacy restrictions prohibit the release of any further information.

FCPHD continues to encourage all residents to conduct preventive measures, including practicing three key steps (The 3 W's): wash your hands, watch your distance, and wear a face covering. 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 speaks, coughs or sneezes.

Please visit our website (www.fordcountyphd.org) and follow our Facebook and Twitter pages for additional COVID-19 information and resources. 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.