



Tuesday, March 17, 2020

First Case of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Eastern Jackson County, Missouri

The Jackson County Health Department is announcing its first presumptive positive case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Eastern Jackson County today. The individual affected is a woman in her 80's who had not traveled recently. The case was identified through a private lab.

"We knew that COVID-19 was coming, and we've been preparing accordingly by monitoring individuals, educating the public, and working with our partners at all levels," said Jackson County Health Department Director Bridgette Shaffer.

"Today's announcement comes as no surprise to anyone in our community as public health professionals have told us it would only be a matter of time," said Jackson County Executive Frank White, Jr. "This is another call to action that we must take this seriously and follow the guidance of public health experts. If not, we risk seeing a wave of infections that could overwhelm our community's healthcare system. Sharing this vital information is key to keeping our community informed and safe, not to cause panic. The people of Jackson County are strong, caring and compassionate and together, we will make it through this."

The Health Department urges the public to take appropriate precautions. Everyone should practice good hygiene, stay informed, practice social distancing, and limit in-person interactions. If you are experiencing symptoms such as cough, fever, or other respiratory problems, call your healthcare provider or an urgent care clinic first to determine if testing is needed. If symptoms are mild, do not go to the emergency room, as this resource needs to remain available for those with the most critical needs.

Stay up-to-date by following Health Department social media accounts ([@jacksoncountyhd](#)), signing up for updates on their website ([jacohd.org](#)), and consulting other reliable sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([cdc.gov](#)).

For general questions about COVID-19, please call the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services' hotline at (877) 435-8411. For questions directed to the Jackson County Health Department, please contact Kayla Parker, Communications Specialist at (816) 404-8424 or kayla.parker@tmcmed.org.

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