



Knox County Health Department

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

1361 West Fremont Street • Galesburg, Illinois 61401

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

The Knox County Health Department (KCHD), along with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are closely monitoring information on COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019). Currently, there are NO cases of COVID-19 in Knox County, and the risk remains low. KCHD continues to coordinate with local, regional, and state partners by:

Participating in calls with IDPH and the CDC.

Reviewing our Pandemic Influenza Plan.

Sharing information with the public, partners and staff via email, website and social media.

Updating our inventory system within the Department.

Working with partners to ensure proper testing of needed individuals.

For questions regarding COVID-19, please call the Department at 309-344-2224.

To view the global spread of COVID-19, visit the Locations with Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Global Map from the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html>.

General Information

What is COVID-19?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with MERS, SARS and now with COVID-19. Human coronaviruses are common throughout the world and commonly cause mild to moderate illness in people worldwide. However, the emergence of novel (new) coronaviruses, such as SARS and MERS, have been associated with more severe respiratory illness.

What are the signs and symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms are similar to other respiratory viruses. If you have these symptoms, it does not necessarily mean you have this new virus! Symptoms may include fever (may not always be present), cough, and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. CDC believes at this time that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 after exposure. While CDC has determined COVID-19 is a serious public health concern because of its community spread in other countries, the immediate health risk to the general American public is considered low at this time.

How can I protect myself from COVID-19 and other viruses?

- Stay informed by checking CDC's website and its social media pages for the most recent information
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap is unavailable
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash



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- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

For additional preventative tips, visit the Prevention and Treatment link at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>.

Seek medical care if you feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing and have traveled to affected geographic areas or were in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the 14 days before you began to feel sick. Call your doctor, urgent care or hospital BEFORE going; they will give you instructions and ask about your travel history and symptoms.

Can someone who has had COVID-19 spread the illness to others?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading from person-to-person. Someone who is actively sick with COVID-19 can spread the illness to others. That is why CDC recommends that these patients be isolated either in the hospital or at home (depending on how sick they are) until they are better and no longer pose a risk of infecting others.

Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

Is there a vaccine for COVID-19?

No. Development of a medical treatment against COVID-19 is underway, but there is no cure for COVID-19 at this time.

Resource Information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov

Illinois Department of Public Health

www.dph.illinois.gov

State of Illinois COVID-19 Questions Hotline

1-800-889-3931