



Crawford County Health Department

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March 12, 2020

Residents of Crawford County,

Crawford County Health Department, along with our community partners, is closely monitoring new developments as our nation faces the COVID-19 coronavirus. The information on COVID-19 is constantly evolving. As we receive information, we will pass it on as soon as possible via social media, our website, and local media sources. Crawford County currently does not have citizens that have tested positive for COVID-19. If this should occur, the public will be informed. Decisions about the implementation of community measures will be made by local and state officials, in consultation with federal officials as appropriate, and based on the scope of the outbreak and the severity of illness.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states the immediate health risk to the general public in the United States is low. For most people, the novel coronavirus produces a mild illness and many of those infected do not even know they have it. As with influenza, in some cases it can lead to serious illness such as pneumonia and death. It appears that the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions are most susceptible.

COVID-19 spreads mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (approximately six feet). The virus can be transmitted in droplets that become airborne through a cough or sneeze. You can also be exposed after touching a surface that has the virus on it, and then touching your face, eyes or mouth.

We encourage you to practice everyday prevention measures like frequent hand washing (for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitizer), staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoid contacting with people who are sick.

Currently a vaccine or drug is not available for COVID-19. According to current information from the CDC, symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. This information is based on what has been seen in similar previous viruses, and it may change as more is known about COVID-19.

Please feel free to contact our office for more information at 618-544-8798 and follow our updates on social media. You can also visit cdc.gov, dph.illinois.gov, or telephone the Illinois Department of Public Health Hotline at 1-800-889-3931 directly.

I assure you we are working diligently to protect the citizens of Crawford County and will make every effort to provide relevant information to you as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darla K. Tracy".

Darla K. Tracy
Certified Public Health Administrator

"Promoting Health, Preventing Illness, and Protecting our Environment."