

Christian-Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency
News Release For Immediate Release (3/16/20 at 19:00hrs)

As the number of confirmed Coronavirus Cases (COVID 19) rises in Illinois and as confirmed cases of the virus come closer to Montgomery and Christian County, citizens are reminded to take basic precautions to prevent the spread of COVID 19.

The unprecedented steps that have been taken by the President of the United States and the Governor of Illinois to stop the spread of COVID 19 will affect each and every resident of Christian and Montgomery Counties to some level. Citizens are reminded that prevention and sensible preparation need to take precedence over fear and worry.

Hugh Satterlee, the Director of the Montgomery County Health Department and Denise Larson, the Director of the Christian County Health Department are implementing guidance that has been developed by the Illinois Department of Public Health. This information is available at: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/.../preventing-spread-c.../community>

If you are notified that you may have been exposed to someone who has been infected with the Coronavirus, please notify your primary care physician who in turn will work with the County Health Department. If you do not have a primary care physician, you should call the County Health Department.

“The severity of the virus affects each person differently,” stated Denise Larson, “older individuals and persons with compromised immune systems are the most vulnerable and should take extra precautions to protect themselves”.

“This virus has many of the same symptoms as the flu,” stated Hugh Satterlee, “these symptoms include coughing, fever and potential chest discomfort or trouble breathing.”

“If you have any of these symptoms, you should stay at home and call your personal care physician,” Satterlee continued, “as you may not need to go to the hospital or the doctor’s office unless the symptoms persist or get progressively worse.”

Testing criteria is set by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for the Coronavirus. If symptoms occur, contact your medical doctor’s office by phone. Do not show up unannounced. They will contact the appropriate County Public Health Department, who in turn will contact IDPH for authorization for the doctor to perform the test. At this time, only individuals who meet this criterion will be tested. The Christian and Montgomery County Health Departments are notified of any positive case of Coronavirus.

Greg Nimmo, Coordinator of the Christian- Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency has opened the Counties Emergency Operations Centers. “We are bringing together emergency managers, elected officials, and volunteers to coordinate emergency response efforts and consolidate resources.”

“The closing of schools and the guidance on mass gatherings has been implemented to help stop the spread of the virus,” Mr. Nimmo stated. “Residents should be sensible and not attend public gatherings if they have any flu-like symptoms. The secret to managing this virus is not infecting others and taking care of yourself.” Both the Governor and the Centers for Disease Control have recommended limiting the number of people at mass gatherings.

Further guidance will be forthcoming from the Montgomery and Christian County Health Departments and residents are reminded that both health departments have websites where additional information can be obtained:

<https://montgomeryco.com/health/>

<http://www.christiancountyhealth.net/>

Additionally, the Christian-Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency has information available at:

<https://christiancountyil.com/emergency-management/>

And the Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChrisMontEMA/>