



Crawford County Health Department

202 N. Christopher Blvd.
Robinson, IL 62454

618-544-8798

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Darla K. Tracy, Certified Public Health Administrator

DATE: March 29, 2020

RE: A case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in a patient in Crawford County.

Crawford County Health Department was notified on Sunday, March 29, 2020 of a resident who tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19). The individual is a male in his 70's. This is the first laboratory confirmed positive of COVID-19 in Crawford County. The individual is thought to have been exposed to the novel coronavirus through recent travel to Arizona. Illinois Department of Public Health, Crawford Memorial Hospital, Crawford County Health Department, and the individual have all been notified and are monitoring the situation.

The patient has not required hospitalization and has been in self-quarantine at home. Crawford County Health Department is investigating who may have been in close contact with the patient before being diagnosed. As is protocol, public health officials may place other individuals on home quarantine if they are determined to have had significant exposure. Such individuals may not be symptomatic, but are quarantined for a period of time which allows symptoms to develop and pass, without posing risk to others. If you are contacted by public health officials, please respond promptly.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Illinois has risen dramatically over the past week and will continue to rise as more exposures occur. County and hospital officials stress that everyone should follow the state's Stay at Home Order. Stay home unless you absolutely must leave. If you leave, please practice social distancing and stay at least 6 feet away from people.

If you have a cough, shortness of breath, or a fever, call your regular primary care provider. DO NOT walk in. The staff will triage patients over the phone and decide the best course of action for the patient. This could include remaining at home and monitoring symptoms, referral to the Respiratory Clinic, or in severe cases, possible referral to the Emergency Department.

If you do not have a regular primary care provider, you can call the Rural Health Clinic's Central Scheduling office for an appointment at 618-544-8500. If you develop symptoms after hours, and believe it is an emergency, please call the hospital's main number at 618-544-3131.

The Respiratory Clinic will continue to follow the Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines to determine if COVID-19 testing is appropriate. Patients will be evaluated for testing on a case by case basis.

The public is asked to follow and share trusted sources of information on COVID-19. The spread of incorrect information during disease outbreaks can lead people to take actions which may not be beneficial to their own health or the health of others. Follow the CDC and IDPH websites for trusted and reliable information. Public health officials will not be releasing more specific details about this individual due to privacy issues.

For reliable, updated information about COVID-19 visit:

- IDPH website: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus> or on the
- CDC website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Findex.html
- State of Illinois also has a HelpLine 1-800-889-3931 or by email dph.sick@illinois.gov
- You may also contact the Crawford County Health Department at 618-544-8798.

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