



Barry County, Missouri

Health Department and Office of Emergency Management

Joint Press Release – 06.16.2020 1100 hrs.



Barry County announces an additional five new cases of COVID-19

The Barry County Health Department is reporting five additional cases of COVID-19, bringing our total number of cases to twenty-two. All of these positive cases are close contacts of a previous case. The new cases had been in quarantine due to the previous contact and are now under an isolation order by the Barry County Health Department, who monitors all quarantined and isolated individuals daily.

Barry County Health Department Administrator Roger Brock commented these new cases represent spread of COVID-19 amongst persons in contact with a known positive case. Since these individuals have been in quarantine for several days, there is a low risk of additional spread in the community from these patients. Brock noted, we do expect to see additional cases of COVID-19 in Barry County due to the recent number of new positives and he wants to remind citizens, the best protection continues to be physical distancing of at least 6', cloth face coverings, and frequent hand washing and cleaning of surfaces.

We are closely monitoring the increase in cases, said David Compton Director of the Office of Emergency Management; the Health Department staff are doing an exceptional job with the disease investigation, contact tracking, and daily follow-ups. I commend the Health Department team on their extraordinary effort to keep our community safe. Residents need to remember that protection from COVID is a matter of personal responsibility; the best choice is to follow the Health Department and CDC guidelines.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath or at least two of the following, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell." Symptoms may begin two days to two weeks after exposure. Your physician can order testing or you can call the Barry County Health Department at 417-847-2114 to discuss the availability of rapid testing.

State of Missouri and Barry County Phase 2 Reopening began June 16 and remains in effect until June 30, 2020. Those rules include recommendations to maintain physical distancing, required source control masking in certain circumstances, and enhanced hygiene practices. Persons at a higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 including those greater 65 years of age, who are immunocompromised or have chronic medical conditions should limit travel and wear a cloth face covering in public. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/groups-at-higher-risk.html>)

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