

Cerro Gordo County Joint Information Center

COVID-19



MEDIA RELEASE

(Mason City) – Thursday, April 30th, 2020

Contact: Emily Dunbar, Public Information Officer, (641) 421-9345

COVID-19 Joint Information Center Update

Data Snapshot

- 7,145 total lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Iowa (04/29/2020).
 - 14 total lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Cerro Gordo (04/29/2020).
 - Age Ranges of Lab Confirmed Cases: (18-40) = 2 cases, (41-60) = 6 cases, (61-80) = 6 cases
- 162 deaths in Iowa
 - 0 deaths in Cerro Gordo
- 1,394 COVID-19 tests administered at the mobile testing unit (04/29/2020).

A status report of monitoring and testing of COVID-19 in Iowa provided by Iowa Department of Public Health can be found at <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/#CurrentStatus>. For Cerro Gordo County data, visit https://cghealth.com/?page_id=3754.

JIC Asks Public to Get 'Back to Basics' to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

The Joint Information Center wants to re-iterate the main priority of the JIC is to communicate unified messages to help keep the public safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the state starts to slowly and responsibly re-open, it is important to remember what we know of the virus. The best way to combat the spread and keep our numbers low is to practice basic public health infection control measures. Keep you and your family safe by practicing the following measures every day:

- Stay home as much as possible. Leave only for essential errands like groceries or getting medication. When you run these errands, send only one person from the household, if possible.
- Avoid groups
- Stay home when even mildly ill (the kind of illness that normally would not prevent you from your everyday activities)
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow/upper arm.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

For more information on how to protect yourself and your family, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>.

DIA Releases Frequently Asked Questions for Restaurants Reopening

The Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) has Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for restaurants choosing to open tomorrow. Locate the list of 27 FAQ's by going to <https://dia.iowa.gov/document/covid-19-frequently-asked-questions-may-1-2020-restaurant-reopening>. For reopening guidance and tools, visit <https://cghealth.com/?topic=coronavirus>.

As a reminder, local responders will not be policing the restaurants and businesses to ensure they are following the reopening guidelines. CG Public Health advocates that these new guidelines be implemented in a

Cerro Gordo County Joint Information Center

COVID-19



proactive manner through self-monitoring and self-application. Call the 2-1-1 number to issue a complaint. As stated in the Weekly COVID-19 Press Conference yesterday, if you go to the gym, to the restaurants, farmer's markets, to the retail stores you increase your risk for exposure. You control your level of exposure and risk. Continue to stay home if you are not comfortable increasing your level of risk and exposure. If businesses or organizations are struggling for ways to apply these guidelines, they may call CG Public Health at 641-421-9300 for assistance.

CDC Adds 6 Additional Symptoms of COVID-19 to List

The additional symptoms added to the list include sore throat, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, and the newest symptom is loss of taste or smell. Symptoms of COVID-19 originally included cough, fever (100.4 or greater) and shortness of breath. A huge part of minimizing spread is staying home when sick. Know what to do if you have been exposed or develop any of the symptoms listed above. Seek immediate medical attention if you have trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion or an inability to stir or move around, bluish lips or face.

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, been exposed to COVID-19, or the Testlowa assessment recommends you get tested, call your health care provider or the MercyOne Family Health Line at (641) 428-7777 for an initial phone screening. Stay home when you're sick.

Updates on Reopening for County and Mason City Until Further Notice

The City of Mason City announced that it is extending closures and cancellations due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. These closures will remain in effect until further notice.

Mason City Mayor Bill Schickel's emergency proclamation of March 17th prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 persons on public property remains in effect. Residents are encouraged to continue to practice social distancing and keep washing your hands! For a detailed list of updates, visit the City's website at <https://www.masoncity.net/pview.aspx?id=48754&catid=478>.

Cerro Gordo county is preparing safeguards for the public and staff in order to open the courthouse to the public at a future date. The Cerro Gordo County Courthouse will continue to be restricted access as follows:

- County Auditor – 1st floor

All other offices will not be accessible in person:

- Mail slot for Clerk of Court – 2nd floor
- Mail slot for County Treasurer – 1st floor

All offices not accessible in person will continue to conduct business only through email, mail and by telephone. We appreciate the patience of the citizens of Cerro Gordo County as we take steps to protect the health and safety of the citizens and our employees. For more information and a list of county numbers, visit www.cgcounty.org.

###