

November 19, 2020 6:00 PM

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Facebook Live: Questions & Answers on COVID-19

Thank you for taking the time out of your evening to tune into this presentation. Madison County has experienced significant increase of COVID-19 positive cases over the past 2 months. As we begin the Holiday season be considerate of COVID-19 infections and how it is spread. During the Spring, the county had very few cases. From March through July we had a total of 19 positive cases. August: 136, September: 202 and October: 238. To date in November we have had 207 new cases of COVID-19. To reduce the spread of COVID-19, I am encouraging citizens to consider the following:

Am I or a family member not feeling well?

Have I or a family member been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 10 days? (Isolation)

Have I or a family member been exposed to a person with COVID-19 within the past 14 days. (Quarantine)

Will the gathering space be adequate to maintain social distancing including while sharing a meal?

If going to a person's home, has anyone in that household been ill with COVID-19 during the past 10 days? (Isolation)

Is anyone in that household been exposed to someone with COVID-19 during the past 14 days. (Quarantine)

Governor Parsons released guidance today that identifies the risk level each county is in. Madison County is in the Extreme Risk level. The data is available at [the MO Department of Health & Senior Services Dashboard at https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus](https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus). Select the COVID-19 Dashboard icon, then select the COUNTY icon, then select JURISDICTION icon. This will provide the selection by county you are wanting informational data.

The Criteria is:

PCR 7-day positivity rate: 15% or above (using CDC method), Madison County is 29.07%. and

7-day case rate per 100K: 350 or above. Madison County is 595.6 per 100K new case rate.

The governors report titled State of Missouri Public Health Warning will be posted on the health department Facebook page and website.

The Governors statement does not place ANY restrictions on gatherings, including places of worship. It is a statement to give Missourian's the information to make informed personal choices. Madison County follows the State of Missouri guidelines.

What exactly does it mean at extreme risk?

From the State of Missouri Public Health Warning issued by Governor Parsons on November 19th: The country is currently experiencing an extreme outbreak of COVID-19. As we move from fall into the winter months, respiratory illnesses spread more rapidly as people move indoors and environmental conditions change. COVID-19 is following that pattern. The risks will become more serious with the onset of flu season. Every state is affected. Every community is at risk.

If we do not slow the spread of the virus, we risk having our health care systems overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients. This poses a significant risk not only to those suffering from COVID-19, our first responders, and those working in our healthcare systems, but to anyone requiring health care support. This includes people requiring emergency services and ICU access from car accidents to treatment of serious health conditions such as cancer.

Free COVID-19 PCR testing this Saturday from 11-3 p.m. Call 1-877-435-8411 to schedule an appointment. Should you or a family member wake up Saturday and not feel well, call and schedule or just drive out to the Cherokee Pass Fire Department from 11-3 and see if you can get on site registration approval.

QUESTIONS POSED ON FACEBOOK AND RESPONSE FROM THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY FOR THE QUESTION.

LEGAL: Response from a local Attorney

If a child has tested positive for COVID19 and is supposed to be in isolation, are there any legal ramifications if a parent ignores the isolation order/recommendation and takes the child out into public?

Yes. The parent could be held liable for knowingly exposing third parties to a known danger and health risk. The liability could be civil, which could conceivably involve punitive damages. There is also the risk of felony criminal charges such as involuntary manslaughter "recklessly causing the death of another". There is another possibility of the charge of endangering the welfare of a child. There are probably more charges conceivable.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Why is the Health Dept allowing our school district to make parents and grandparents and child caregivers feel threatened to make our children return to school or they will be held back? I thought the Health Dept was the one responsible, as well as our Mayor, for making sure all measures are taken to keep us all safe, especially our Children. Everyone knows numbers started climbing since school started up and calvary temple. So why has the Health Officials decided to ignore this?

Fredericktown R-1 School District: We feel like our safety plan is working well at this point. We have implemented many strategies to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Virtual instruction is difficult, and we are seeing many students that are not successful with this platform. As a result of this, we are sending a few letters to parents/guardians of virtual students who have not turned in any work and are failing their classes. We are nearing the end of the first semester and it is to a critical point for students who are not doing their lessons. We offer a variety of extended time for students to turn in these assignments, but many are not taking advantage of this. We have found that many of our HS students are working jobs instead of working on their virtual classes. Face to face instruction is more effective and we do not want any students getting behind and/or not graduating on time.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Are people who have COVID, (even with slight symptoms) not isolating or in quarantine & going out in public anyway, without masks?

Do probable cases have to isolate as well?

What is protocol for those who are positive yet asymptomatic?

If you are symptomatic and waiting test results, it is recommended that you isolate until you have received negative results or if you have tested positive for COVID-19, please stay home until your isolation period has ended and you have significant improvement of your symptoms.

All probable cases are to isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms, or from the test collection date if you test positive but are asymptomatic.

Can you report the number of active, current hospitalizations?

Are you able to post the general demographic of our county residents who have passed? Age, comorbidities etc.?

We will only report cumulative numbers for hospitalizations, COVID-19 related deaths, positive case numbers, long term and residential care facilities and active case numbers. Most hospitalizations are only known when we call to release persons from isolation at the end of the 10 days and the individual reports they have been in the hospital.

1. What is our best defense against the surge of the covid19?
 2. If someone has had the COVID should they still wear a mask?
 3. Has there been any in our county that has had it twice?
- number 3 is what I wanted to ask about also

great questions...I have the same questions as #2 & #3

1. The prevention message for COVID-19 has not changed.

●Continue to practice good hygiene ●Wash your hands with soap and water especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces ●Using hand sanitizer does not replace hand washing!
●Avoid touching your face ●Continue to practice social distancing ●Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow ●Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible ●Strongly consider using face coverings while in public settings, and particularly when using public transit systems or public indoor facilities including retail businesses, restaurants, and places of worship. If your health does not permit you to wear face coverings for the length of time you will be inside a public facility, consider staying home. Children less than 2 years of age should never wear face coverings.

As we enter the holiday season think about these questions before attending or hosting gatherings.

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(Isolation)

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- 2. Wearing a mask especially when you are unable to social distance is highly encouraged regardless of past infection from COVID-19. As we are seeing a rise in Strep infections and persons are experiencing cold like symptoms and we are entering the influenza season, this will also help protect you from unknowing spread other infectious diseases.**
- 3. Madison County has had individuals test positive for COVID-19 more than 90 days following prior positive test. Is this a re-infection or a "relapse" is unknown. It is recommended, that people who have tested positive for COVID-19 should not let down their guard.**

Why are people who have tested Negative, but are showing symptoms, are not testing Positive till after they have died. Is this due to the type of testing being performed, or the test itself? I know there seems to be a few ways to get tested, from same day results, to a few days, to a week. Is one better than the other, or more accurate?

The PCR test is the gold standard test. If this test is positive you have COVID-19. You can continue to test positive from a PCR test for as long as 3 months. As we are once again in a shortage of testing supplies, unless required by your doctor or your employer, it is not recommended that you be retested for 3 months.

The antigen test has a tendency to have higher false results. This test is a "rapid" test and is being utilized in nursing homes as well as other congregate areas.

When you are tested, be sure and know what type of test you are receiving. If the test is an antigen test, and you test positive, it is recommended you follow up with your doctor for a PCR confirmation. This affects your quarantine potential during the next 90 days.

Why are so many people with symptoms testing negative, but testing positive after another test? Or family sick with same symptoms, yet half test positive and other half test negative?

The level of infection can affect the ability of the test to detect the virus. Basically, the more symptoms and sick you are the more likely the results will be positive.

The numbers in nursing homes seems to keep rising. Are they still allowed to have visitors or what is the cause of the rise in numbers?

Nursing Homes and other Congregate Living places have clear guidance that must be followed. Contact the Long-Term Care or Residential Care facility for their current visiting status.

When Nursing Homes and other Congregate Living facilities are permitted to open their doors:

- Never visit if you are ill. There are a lot of diseases and virus that are contagious.
- For Churches and organizations that provide services and programs for these facilities, require all attendees to be well. Never visit if you are ill.
- Follow all requirements of the facility while visiting your loved ones.

Is there a reputable source to research the vaccines that are being produced? To find out what is contained in the vaccine itself to allow patients to make an informed choice as to possible side effects, allergies and length of immunity?

Centers for Disease Control: <https://search.cdc.gov/search/index.html?query=COVID-19+Vaccine&sitelimit=&utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=cdc-main> Many topics regarding the COVID-19 vaccine(s).

Can also research the vaccine manufacturing companies.

People with COVID are not isolating. Point blank. Not to mention those children who have had teachers that came up positive continued to go to school with an OPTION to quarantine.

They are saying that the children in quarantine with the other children are not exposed but still in the same house. We all have asthma.

That does not work for the school. They are still letting the siblings go to school.

CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> This website will provide explanation of Isolation and Quarantine and gives examples of the contact tracing.

It is important to be forthcoming of your interaction in the community when the health department calls to talk with you about positive results. Not every person you have encountered is placed in quarantine. We utilize the CDC questionnaire for Close Contacts to identify persons who are

deemed at risk of exposure. The potential contacts are needed back to 2 days from your onset of symptoms.

Isolation is for those who have tested positive for COVID-19. The 10 days of Isolation starts from the day of onset of symptoms. With the delay in getting results (2-5 days usually), individuals may only have a few days left in Isolation when they are notified they are positive. That is why it is VERY important that persons who are tested should ISOLATE until they receive their results.

Quarantine is for those who have been exposed to a known positive case. Quarantine starts on the last day of the exposure to the known positive case. It is only placed on the person. Sometimes this only affects one person in a household. There are different restriction of quarantine for persons who are essential workers.