



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Boone County
Health Department**

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stay Home: COVID-19 Cases in Boone County Likely Higher than Confirmed

BOONE COUNTY— Boone County Health Department (BCHD) reminds residents that Governor Pritzker's Stay at Home order means significantly restricting outside movement to **ONLY** essential activities to prevent further spread of COVID-19. The order means you **MUST** stay at home until **April 30th**, leaving only for essential reasons: to get groceries or medicine, to get medical care, to get exercise outside or take a pet out, to take care of others, and for certain types of work. Work from home when possible. Keep 6 feet between you and others, both in public and at home. The order prohibits visits to other people's homes, except to provide care or supplies, as well as gatherings of more than 10 people.

Do not leave your home unless absolutely necessary, **even if you aren't sick but especially if you have symptoms**. Remain home and ask others for help if you have symptoms or if you are a vulnerable population at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19, such as those over 60, those who are pregnant, and those with underlying health conditions like asthma, diabetes, cancer, and lung or heart disease.

BCHD would like to stress that the **number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases does not represent an accurate number of cases**. Currently, IDPH only recommends testing individuals hospitalized with unexplained pneumonia or those who live or work in a group-living facility, such as

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nursing homes and jails. This means the total number of tests performed, and total number of positive tests, does not accurately represent Boone County's testing among the general population or actual COVID-19 cases. BCHD will not be releasing the number of individuals tested.

Eighty percent of cases are mild, so testing is not performed and the symptomatic person is instructed to stay home for 7 days or 72 hours after fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication, whichever is longer. Anyone with respiratory symptoms that cannot be attributed to an underlying or previously recognized condition should consider themselves a possible case of COVID-19.

A confirmed case of COVID-19 is defined as a person with COVID-19-like illness and a positive laboratory test. A possible case of COVID-19 is defined as a person with a fever OR cough OR shortness of breath OR sore throat that cannot be attributed to an underlying or previously known condition. In children, fever with sore throat may be attributable to conditions other than COVID-19 (e.g., strep throat) and the parent/guardian should consult a healthcare provider to rule out other illnesses.

If you have questions you can contact us at our COVID-19 information line at 815-547-8567 or email us at COVID19@boonehealth.org. The information line is available Monday – Friday from 8am-4:30pm.

The Center for Disease Control released the Coronavirus Self-Checker. The Coronavirus Self-Checker's purpose is help you make decisions about seeking appropriate medical care. This system is not intended for the diagnosis or treatment of disease or other conditions, including COVID-19. This system is intended only for people who are currently located in the United States. The Coronavirus Self-Checker can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>. Additional information is also available on the IDPH's COVID-19 and CDC COVID-19 websites.

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About The Boone County Health Department

The Boone County Health Department is a local health department committed to serving the health needs of its almost 54,000 residents. Established in 1966, we promote and protect the health of the people and the communities in Boone County, right here, where they live, work, learn and play.