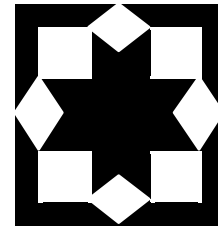


# STEPHENSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



*Building a Healthy Community*

[www.stephensonhealth.com](http://www.stephensonhealth.com)

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March 17, 2020

FROM: Craig Beintema  
Public Health Administrator

STEPHENSON COUNTY – As a precaution, and in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the risk of exposure, in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order prohibits all public or private gatherings and events of 50 people or more in a single room until March 30. This includes community, civic, public leisure, faith-based events and any similar activity. This includes fitness centers, bowling alleys, private clubs and theatres. It does not include venues that provide essential goods or services such as grocery stores, hospitals, pharmacies, gas stations, banks or shelters. The Executive Order closes all restaurants and bars until March 30th. **Only carryout, drive through, delivery or curbside pickup is allowed.**

The City of Freeport is providing temporary loading zones in front of downtown restaurants to ease the pick-up and delivery of carry out foods. This information is being given in collaboration with Stephenson County EMA, FHN, and the City of Freeport

Due to the vulnerability of the population in long-term care facilities, the Health Department is also restricting visitors to long term care facilities. Please call the facility ahead of time with any questions.

**If you have symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), call your healthcare provider, Urgent Care Clinic or the Emergency Department before you visit. The most important response our residents should take is to stay home if ill and call your primary care provider. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911. Please check your provider's website.**

FHN <https://www.fhn.org/coronavirus.asp>

Monroe Clinic [www.ssmhealth.com/covid19](http://www.ssmhealth.com/covid19)

## Illinois COVID-19 Hotline and Email Address

If you have questions about Coronavirus, call the Illinois Coronavirus (COVID-19) Hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email [DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV](mailto:DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV) 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As of right now, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Stephenson County. Two positive cases have been identified in Whiteside and Winnebago. The health and safety of our residents is our highest priority. This virus is highly contagious and because it's a new virus the general population doesn't have immunity to it. There is no vaccine for the COVID-19 virus at this time. The best way to control the spread of the illness is to avoid exposure to it. While a majority of the people won't become seriously ill from the virus, the most at risk include the older adults and those with underlying health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and lung disease. As the situation evolves,

Stephenson County continues to work with the Illinois Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to take every effort possible to prevent illness from spreading.

The Stephenson County Health Department follows guidance and information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as the Illinois Department of Public Health. The number of confirmed cases in Illinois continues to increase, and current information suggests that person-to-person spread will continue to occur and more cases will be identified in Illinois. Our goal is to reduce the impact of COVID-19, by minimizing transmission and developing guidance to protect the community.

The public can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by:

- Staying home and isolating yourself from others in your home if you're sick
- Practicing good handwashing
- Covering your sneeze and/or cough
- Cleaning frequently touched services

Additional information regarding COVID-19 will be shared with the public as soon as it becomes available. **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Resource links:**

- [IDPH - Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [IDPH - Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases by Johns Hopkins CSSE](#)
- [CDC Homepage for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [CDC Travel Guidance](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Laboratories](#)

For more information, visit the Stephenson County Health Department website at [www.stephensonhealth.com](http://www.stephensonhealth.com). Like us on [Facebook](#), or, contact us at 815-235-8271. Our hotline is 815-801-4636