



COVID-19 Update

Sangamon County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Hotline: 217-321-2606

NOTE: The public is asked to only use this hotline number to allow other internal numbers to remain free for communication with other agencies.

COVID-19 Update: March 16, 2020

This is a daily joint communication from the Sangamon County Department of Public Health (SCDPH) along with Memorial Health System, HSHS St. John's Hospital, Springfield Clinic and SIU Medicine updating you on the status of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Sangamon County. This communication will come at approximately 5 p.m. each day as necessary.

At the time of this press release, we can report that there are four confirmed cases in Sangamon County. One of those four patients is a Sangamon County resident. On Monday, one patient was discharged from Memorial Medical Center to their home. The county has 17 tests pending, and today received six negative test results.

County Officials Declare State of Emergency

County Administrator Brian McFadden said today that Sangamon County has declared the county a disaster area in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. This will free up immediate resources to combat the virus and make it easier for county officials to acquire needed supplies, medical equipment and healthcare providers by streamlining the approval process for government purchasing.

CDC, White House Recommend Canceling Events

On Sunday, March 15, the CDC issued a recommendation that events involving more than 50 people should be canceled or postponed nationwide for at least the next eight weeks to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

In a news conference today, President Donald Trump went beyond that recommendation, urging Americans to avoid crowds of more than 10 people.



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Update on Dining Restrictions at Local Restaurants, Hospital Cafeterias

On Sunday, Governor JB Pritzker announced new restrictions on dining in at Illinois restaurants and bars in an attempt to curb community spread of COVID-19.

Gail O'Neill, director of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health, said that while dining inside the restaurant is prohibited, local eateries are still free to accept carry-out and delivery orders. Patrons are welcome to enter the restaurant to pay and pick up their food, although it's up to individual restaurant owners to make sure a crowd of people waiting doesn't form inside.

"We're trying to make it simple and safe at the same time," O'Neill said.

Cafeterias at local hospitals are permitted to remain open, but for "grab and go" orders only. Tables will be arranged so that visitors and employees are seated six feet apart, the span recommended for social distancing.

Reminder: What to Do If You Are Experiencing Symptoms

If you are experiencing possible COVID-19 symptoms, please do not go to the emergency room. First, call your primary care physician. If you don't have a physician, call the Sangamon County Department of Public Health hotline at 217-321-2606.