



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 07/15/2020

**Laclede County Health Department Announces
Nine New Laboratory Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Case(s)
Case #116 - #124**

LACLEDE COUNTY, MO – The Laclede County Health Department has received notification of nine (9) additional positive laboratory confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 in Laclede County. Our total is now one-hundred-twenty-three (123) cases to date; forty-four (44) currently being monitored, seventy-eight (78) considered recovered, one (1) death, and multiple close contacts being monitored daily. Our agency will not be releasing personal information, to protect the individuals' identity. Recommended testing of identified close contacts, and quarantine/isolation instructions have been provided. Daily monitoring of all active cases and close contacts will be completed for the quarantine/isolation period.

Case investigation information is as follows:

- Case #116
 - Symptomatic
 - Exposure – Out-of-State Positive Visitor(s)
 - No Public Exposure
- Case #117
 - Symptomatic
 - Exposure – Out-of-state Travel / Household Contact to Out-of-State Travel
 - No Public Exposure
- Case #118
 - Symptomatic
 - No Known Exposure to Positive Case – Assumed Community Spread
 - No Public Exposure
- Case #119
 - Symptomatic
 - Exposure – Close Contact to Positive Case
 - No Public Exposure
 - This individual has been identified as an employee or resident in a Long Term Residential Care Facility. All staff, residents and family contacts have been notified. The facility is working with Long Term Care Regulation to monitor and address this situation.
- Case #120
 - Symptomatic
 - Exposure – Close Contact to Positive Case

- No Public Exposure
 - Case #121
 - Symptomatic
 - Exposure – Close Contact to Positive Case
 - No Public Exposure
 - Case #122
 - Symptomatic
 - Exposure – Close Contact to Positive Case
 - No Public Exposure
 - Case #123
 - Symptomatic
 - Exposure – Close Contact to Positive Case
 - No Public Exposure
 - Case #124
 - Symptomatic
 - Exposure – Close Contact to Positive Case
 - No Public Exposure
- **Explanation of information provided:**
- Symptomatic – Either prior to being tested and/or during the case investigation, individual reports having symptoms. Not Symptomatic – Individual reports no symptoms to date. We continue to monitor each case throughout their quarantine/isolation period for developing symptoms.
 - During the case investigation, we work with the individual to determine the most possible origin of their exposure. In some instances, they can be linked to another positive case and/or a location where positive cases were identified. Some cases have no known linkage to another positive case and/or exposure location.
 - During the case investigation we work with the individual to determine locations they potentially could be exposing others, especially large groups. Individuals under quarantine/isolation for a previous exposure to a positive case should have limited or no public exposure.

Symptoms of COVID-19 illness may include: fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell. Anyone with concerns are advised to contact their healthcare provider for further directions. Protection for yourself and others include: proper/frequent handwashing, cleaning frequently used surfaces, staying at home when you are sick, avoiding contact with people who are sick, coughing/sneezing into tissues, wearing a mask when in public, not gathering in large groups, and maintaining a six (6) foot distance between yourself and another person.

It should be understood that with the current community illness spread, any public activity should be considered a potential exposure risk, and all precautions need to be taken for your personal protection.