



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 06/18/2020**

**Laclede County Health Department Announces  
Two (14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>) New Laboratory Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Cases  
and One (16<sup>th</sup>) Probable Positive COVID-19 Case**

LACLEDE COUNTY, MO – The Laclede County Health Department has received notification of two (2) additional positive laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Laclede County. In addition, we have one (1) probable positive case. Our total is now sixteen (16) cases to date; eight (8) currently being monitored, and eight (8) considered recovered. These newest cases are a mixture of both asymptomatic (no symptoms) and symptomatic individuals. All cases are household and/or close contacts to a previously announced case, and can be linked to the index case affiliated with the positive cases reported from Fort Leonard Wood. Testing was done once notified of their close contact to a positive case, and/or recommended. Our agency will not be releasing personal information, to protect the individuals' identity. We are working with these individuals to ensure they are following Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (MoDHSS) and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) guidelines regarding quarantine/isolation.

The case investigations have been completed, identifying close contacts and/or locations that the positive cases visited. Those close contacts have been instructed to quarantine for the required timeframe, monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, and/or receive testing. This is being done to assist in the containment of the virus spread in our community. Through the investigations, locations of possible exposure are as follows:

- June 13<sup>th</sup> (Approximately 5:30 - 6:30 PM) – El Caporal Mexican Restaurant / Camdenton
- No other public locations were identified.

Employees and customers who may have been possibly exposed during these dates/timeframes should monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days from the date of 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 about this possible exposure, or anyone with symptoms 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.

Charla Baker, Laclede County Health Department Administrator continues to stress the importance of personal precautions. "The cases reported this week are perfect examples of how easily this disease is still being spread, especially to household and very close contacts. Every precaution that you can take should still be used." stated Baker. The Laclede County Health Department has, and will continue to diligently monitor the COVID-19 situation as it continues to evolve. Our continued goal is the safety and protection of our public.