



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 06/01/2020**

**Laclede County Health Department Announces  
Sixth & Seventh Laboratory Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Case**

LACLEDE COUNTY, MO – The Laclede County Health Department has received notification of two additional positive laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19. This brings our overall total to seven (7) cases. These individuals are currently experiencing mild symptoms of the illness, and are close household contacts of a previously reported Laclede County case. It has also been determined that these cases were most likely exposed during a short out of county visit with an individual, who has now been identified as a positive case. Our agency will not be releasing personal information, to protect the individuals' identity. We are working with this individual to ensure they are following Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (MoDHSS) and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) guidelines regarding quarantine/isolation.

A case investigation has been completed, identifying close personal and employment contacts. 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. During the case investigation, it has been determined that no other public exposure has been made, that was not previously reported.

Citizens are reminded that symptoms of COVID-19 illness may include: fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste of smell. Anyone with concerns about possible exposure, or anyone with symptoms are advised to contact their healthcare provider for further directions.

“Our case numbers are growing, and we cannot stress the extreme importance to follow prevention steps.”, stated Charla Baker, Laclede County Health Department Administrator. These steps 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. 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.