

**Laclede County
Health Dept.**



"Protecting our Community"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 09/15/2020

**Laclede County Health Department Announces
Twenty-Five New Laboratory Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Case(s)
Case #404 - #428**

LACLEDE COUNTY, MO – The Laclede County Health Department has received notification of twenty-five (25) additional positive laboratory confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 in Laclede County. Our total is now four-hundred-twenty-seven (427) cases to date; one-hundred-twelve (112) currently being monitored, three-hundred-thirteen (313) considered recovered, two (2) deaths, 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.

Due to the magnitude of our current caseload, along with continued cases being added on a daily basis, our reporting system will be changing, beginning with this announcement. We will still be reporting each Laclede County case, but in a summarized format. We will no longer be posting specific locations of exposure, but will continue to work with locations that may have an "outbreak" situation occur. As we have expressed for quite some time, any/all public locations should be considered a potential exposure site, and all precautions taken to protect yourself and family. This change has become necessary to manage our current positive caseload, and hundreds of close contact monitoring measures. We ask for your understanding with this reporting change.

Case Investigation Summary

- Case #404 - #428
 - Total Symptomatic – 10
 - Total Asymptomatic (Not Having Symptoms) – 15
 - Identified as Close Contact to a Positive Case – 21
 - Identified as Household Contact to a Positive Case – 1
 - No Known Contact to Positive Case/Assumed Community Spread – 3

Included in the cases above, are nineteen (19) cases identified as an employee or resident in a Long Term Residential Care Facility. All exposed staff, residents, and family/guardian contacts have been notified. The facility is working with Long Term Care Regulation to monitor and address this situation.

Laclede County Positive Cases Associated with a School District:

- Lebanon School District
 - Lebanon High School – 6

- Lebanon Middle School – 2
 - Boswell Elementary School – 2
 - Hillcrest Education Center – 2
 - Transportation Department – 1
 - Esther Elementary – 1
- Conway School District
 - Ezard Elementary School – 1

School associated case investigations and contact tracing have been completed. Close contacts with the individual(s) have been personally notified, with necessary instructions provided. This is an accumulative total since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

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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.