



CLAY COUNTY

# PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Three Confirmed Cases of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Clay County, Missouri

**LIBERTY, Mo. – March 23, 2020** – Clay County Public Health Center is announcing three cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), confirmed today through lab tests. The cases consist of one male and one female in their 50s and one woman in her 80s. The cases are unrelated. None of the individuals have recently traveled which indicates community spread is occurring.

“Unfortunately, COVID-19 continues to spread across the Kansas City metro area and Clay County is no exception” said Director of Public Health Gary E. Zaborac. “We want to make it clear to everyone that prevention against COVID-19 should be taken seriously. At this time, we are asking everyone follow the shelter in place order to protect our families, friends, and neighbors and help to keep our health care facilities from being overwhelmed.”

Clay County Public Health Center has begun formal investigations into how each patient became infected with the disease and will attempt to notify anyone they have been in close contact with recently. However, the Kansas City region is already seeing cases of community spread, meaning the disease is so widespread that it is often unclear how a patient became infected.

Yesterday, Clay County Public Health Center joined other areas in the region in implementing [stay-at-home orders](#) for all who live and work in Clay County, beginning March 24 and lasting until April 24. In addition to staying at home unless absolutely necessary, the health department urges the public to take other important actions at this time. These include washing hands well and often, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and objects and keeping six feet away from others when outside your home.

Additionally, if you are sick, isolate at home to prevent the spread of germs and only leave to seek medical care. If you experience symptoms such as cough, fever, or other respiratory problems, please call your health care provider or urgent care clinic to receive guidance and arrange a test if appropriate. Do not go to the emergency room unless you are having troubling breathing and need immediate medical attention.

For the latest updates and guidance, please visit [clayhealth.com/coronavirus](http://clayhealth.com/coronavirus) and follow Clay County Public Health Center on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). For general questions about COVID-19, call the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services hotline at (877) 435-8411 or visit the CDC's website at [coronavirus.gov](http://coronavirus.gov).

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The mission of the Clay County Public Health Center is to deliver the essential public health services of prevention, promotion and protection to the communities of Clay County.