



CHRIS-MONT EMA

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**Christian-Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency Joint Information Center (JIC)
Special Press Release 8/18/2020**

Christian County Board Chair Becky Edwards, Taylorville Mayor Bruce Barry and Pana Mayor Don Korski, as recommended by the local public health department, encourage social distancing, the wearing of masks to protect others when social distancing is not possible, as well as frequent hand sanitizing/washing and the cleaning of common touch areas regularly. Please keep in mind, this is an active virus with no vaccine available in our communities. It has no political agenda or motive.

“We are not defenseless”, said Chris-Mont EMA Director, Greg Nimmo. “Cloth face coverings are one of the best things we have available to us to slow the spread of this or any airway related virus while out in public locations, particularly when used community-wide”.

The cases of COVID-19 virus continue to rise in our local communities. Christian County now has six of nine long term care (LTCF) and assisted living facilities that have active virus cases. These exposures and active cases at LTCFs have mostly come from public exposures outside these facilities by caretakers/workers. This is not because of a lack of effort or following IDPH/CDC protocol on their part. These facilities are working hard in a high-stress environment during this viral pandemic to protect those they serve. It is simply the fact that many people can be asymptomatic and carry the virus without knowledge of it after public exposure. This includes frontline workers.

Wearing a mask in public, hand washing and routinely cleaning common touch areas will not only protect the vulnerable among us, but it will also help to protect frontline LTCF caretakers/workers, public safety employees (EMS/fire/police) and medical workers from contracting it and spreading it unknowingly to those who have a high-risk that they are in contact with daily. Commit today to do these simple steps to help these frontline workers protect the most vulnerable population among us!

A concern going into the fall season is the growing spread of the COVID-19 virus we are seeing mixed with a severe influenza season, along with regular hospitalizations, could overwhelm our hospitals. Our two local hospitals in Christian County do not have any ICU beds in their facilities. Region 3, which we are part of, shows we currently have 71 of 150 ICU beds available over 19 counties in West Central Illinois. That means all of these beds are not located in Springfield. If you contract this virus and have severe difficulties you will be moved to an ICU bed outside of our county. Unfortunately, you will not be able to have family members by your side, nor will they be able to visit other than electronically because of this virus. This release is not to instill fear in anyone, this is the reality of how it works during this virus.

Unfortunately, we have recently witnessed the death of a vibrant and wonderful community member who was not in the high-risk category in addition to the other four vulnerable populations deaths we have seen to date. That brings our death toll in Christian County to five. We also currently have 111 positive cases of COVID-19 isolated in Christian County. These numbers given are not simply stats, they are our friends and family. Our prayers go out to all of these families! Please, do your part to slow the spread of this virus.

We are all in this together! / #OneTeamOneFight

Trusted Sources and Contact Information:**Christian County Public Health:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Christian-County-Health-Department-IL-1897847710292284>

Website: <http://www.christiancountyhealth.net>

P: 217-824-4113

Montgomery County Public Health:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MontgomeryCountyHD/>

Web Site: <https://montgomeryco.com/health/>

P: 217-532-2001

Chris-Mont EMA:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChrisMontEMA/>

Website: <https://christiancountyil.com/emergency-management/>

P: 217-532-9560

Additional trusted sources for facts and information:

State of Illinois Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>

Illinois Department of Public Health: <http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19>

Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

P: State of Illinois 24/7 COVID Hotline: 1-800-889-3931

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