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## **Christian-Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency**

### **News Release (4/28/2020 1200 hrs)**

There have been numerous questions regarding how many people have recovered from COVID-19 within Christian and Montgomery Counties. Recovery is not an easy question to answer. Individuals recover at their own rate. Denise Larson, Director of the Christian County Public Health Department has provided the following: "In Christian County, we have had cases that had resolved symptoms before their test results came back and we have had individuals in the hospital for weeks. Other individuals never recovered and now their families are trying to recover from the loss of their loved ones. From my perspective, I have talked with not only individuals that have tested positive, but their loved ones, and everyone has a different piece to share on what recovery entails.

After speaking with numerous people infected and affected, they would like the community to know that recovery is a long process. Do not base your safety on how they are recovering or if they feel they have recovered. COVID-19 is a new virus and there is not enough information at this time to determine how it will affect an individual, so therefore a standardized recovery rate cannot be determined.

For these individuals and their families, their biggest fear is infecting someone else. They have lived how this virus infected them and they would never wish it upon anyone else. Even now as their symptoms resolve, they stay home because they understand this virus is so new, there is no data to say when an individual has recovered. They are doing everything to not infect their loved ones or our community. It is truly commendable the sacrifices these individuals have made to keep our community safe. What is disheartening to them is when they see people in the community not following the recommendations. One individual said, "When I wear a mask at the store and I see a family of 4 shopping, I try not to be angry, I just know I have to do my part and try to keep the community safe. I just wonder if they ever look at me and consider I may have been the one that lost a family member to COVID?"

Another family stated, "Recovery is an individual family affair and they hope that no other family ever has to go through what they have had to endure. There are ways to keep your family safe and everyone should be taking it seriously."

One individual stated that "Communities will recover, but it takes everyone to do their part. Stop focusing on one individual and do your part. That is how we will recover. COVID-19 is in our community. People can test positive and have no symptoms. How can you base recovery on that statistic? You cannot. However, you can be exposed because someone without symptoms can be contagious. The recommendations are in place for the safety of all individuals within Christian County. "

The individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19 and their loved ones are healing. Recovery will come at its own pace. Please respect the recommendations that have been put in place and let's all do our part in protecting not only yourself but everyone in Christian County from being exposed to COVID-19".

As of 5:47 pm last night 4/27/20, there were 0 new positives in Christian County and 0 new positives in Montgomery County for the day. That is great news! Total cumulative reported test numbers from each county are Montgomery County, 23 positive tests including 1 loss of life, and 309 negative tests. Christian County has 28 positive tests to include 4 losses of life and 248 negative tests.

\*All data are provisional and will change. In order to rapidly report COVID-19 information to the public, data are being reported in real-time. Information is constantly being entered into an electronic system and the number of cases and deaths can change as additional information is gathered.

Chris-Mont EMA urges everyone to follow social distancing, wearing masks in public when around others, hand washing, cleaning, disinfecting touch areas regularly, and stay home if you are ill. If you consider that everyone you meet could unknowingly be a carrier of COVID-19 and protect yourself according to CDC protocols, you are doing everything you can to keep you and your family safe. Also, these simple protocols, as inconvenient as they may be to all of us, protects those around you as well.

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://christiancountyl.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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