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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
What can I do to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

There are no confirmed cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Taney County. There is one case in the state of Missouri, which is why preventing the spread of COVID-19 remains top-of-mind for the Taney County Health Department.

What can I do to prevent the spread of COVID-19? This is one of many questions staff at the Taney County Health Department have been answering for the past several weeks. “Just because this is a new virus doesn’t mean that the protection methods are new,” states Tiffany Bullock, Public Health Nurse Specializing in Communicable Disease Investigation for the Taney County Health Department. “Washing your hands, staying home if you are sick, covering your cough and sneeze, and avoiding touching your eyes, mouth, and nose are the best ways to protect you and your family from COVID-19.”

Who is at a high risk of developing severe illness? Older people (age 70+) and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as high blood pressure, heart disease, lung disease, cancer or diabetes) appear to develop serious illness more often than others.

I think I have COVID-19, what do I do? Many common illnesses have the same symptoms as COVID-19 (coughing, fever, difficulty breathing) but if you have reason to think you have COVID-19, please call your doctor or your healthcare provider. Only a doctor can order a COVID-19 test. It’s very important you call before you head to their office if you think you have COVID-19 so protective steps can be put in place before your arrival.

How long does COVID-19 survive on surfaces? “This is something that is still under investigation,” states Ashton King, Environmental Health Specialist at Taney County Health Department, “but COVID-19 seems to behave like other coronaviruses and may survive on surfaces for a few hours, or up to several days. The best advice is to clean surfaces with an approved disinfectant regularly.” To see a list of disinfectants effective against COVID-19, visit the Taney County Health Department Facebook page or visit <https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>

How can I get reliable information about COVID-19? Great question! Reliable information can be found on Taney County Health Department’s Facebook page. The Department of Health and Senior Services has recently opened a COVID-19 Information Hotline. This hotline is staffed by healthcare personnel 24/7 and will answer any questions regarding COVID-19. The number is: 1-877-435-8411. For more information, contact the Taney County Health Department at 417-334-4544 or 417-546-4725. Like us on Facebook.

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The Taney County Health Department envisions a community of healthy people. Every day, we work to achieve this vision through leadership, collaboration, education and service. We value integrity, learning, teamwork, positive communication, quality improvement and dedicated service. Please visit our website <http://www.taneycohealth.org> to learn more about our services.