

Contact: Lisa Marshall  
Taney County Health Department  
320 Rinehart Road  
Phone: (417) 334-4544 ext. 252  
Cell: (417) 343-8203  
Email: lisa.marshall@lpha.mo.gov



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAQ's to the Taney County Health Department  
March 24, 2020 11:00 am

As the COVID-19 cases increase state wide the Taney County Health Department (TCHD) is working hard to answer your questions with up-to-date and accurate information.

Here are a few of the questions we have received:

**How many tests is the TCHD doing on a daily basis?** The health department is not doing any testing in-house. Testing must be ordered by a physician, and then the physician will refer the patient to a testing site. If you are having symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) please call your healthcare provider. CoxHealth is offering virtual visits at [coxhealth.com/services/virtualvisits/](https://coxhealth.com/services/virtualvisits/). If the physician determines that you need to be tested, they will give you instructions on how to proceed.

**Taney County just had a confirmed case...now what?** The communicable disease team at TCHD will do a disease investigation to determine where the individual traveled and who may have been exposed. People who may have been exposed will be contacted by TCHD or an epidemiologist from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. These investigations take time and are a collaborative effort; your patience is appreciated.

**Only older people are at risk of contracting COVID-19 right? EVERYONE** is at risk of getting COVID-19, not just those in the 60+ age range. Please remember that your decisions can and are affecting others' lives right now. Many younger adults and families are returning from spring break. If you have traveled outside of the area, the TCHD strongly encourages you to self-quarantine for 14 days.

**What can I do to help stop the spread of COVID-19?** It is important that everyone practice physical distancing. The cities of Branson, Hollister and Forsyth ALL have ordinances or declarations in place that need to be adhered to. Currently you are required to NOT gather in groups of 10 or more, and keep at least 6 feet between each person. Refrain from gathering in restaurants and bars by using drive thrus, curbside pick-up or delivery.

**How long will this pandemic go on?** No one knows for sure. We can all do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19 by listening to and following the directions of state and local government. Actions like physical distancing, hand hygiene, staying home if you are sick, and covering your cough and sneeze will help this pandemic to end sooner.

**How can I keep up with the latest information?** Please like and share the Taney County Health Department Facebook page, be sure to check our website at [www.taneycohealth.org](http://www.taneycohealth.org) or call us at 417-334-4544 or 417-546-4725.

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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.