

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Taney County Health Department Updates Quarantine and Contact Tracing Guidelines December 17, 2020

In response to the updated CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19 quarantines, the Taney County Health Department (TCHD) Board of Trustees voted to partially adopt the guidelines on Monday, December 14, 2020. The CDC does recommend a 14-day quarantine for those that are able. Those who do not have symptoms can quarantine for the shorter 10 days as long as they monitor for symptoms and wear a face covering for the full 14 days. New guidelines only apply to individuals that are asymptomatic and do not apply to nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

The TCHD quarantine update recommendations are as follows:

- Follow the CDC guidance and end quarantine after the completion of 10 full days for **asymptomatic** individuals living outside of nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- Individuals released from quarantine after 10 full days, must continue to monitor for symptoms and wear a face covering for 14 days.
- Continue to advise community members to engage in preventive measures at all times.
- Continue to recommend a 14-day quarantine for those that are able.

“TCHD recognizes the hardship a 14-day quarantine can have on Taney County residents, especially if you are feeling fine and can not go to work.” states Lisa Marshall, Director of TCHD, “We are hopeful that this change in quarantine will meet the needs of the community while continuing to promote health and safety throughout the county.”

Due to the high rates of transmission in Taney County and availability of testing resources, TCHD will **NOT** follow the 7 day test out option. This will be reevaluated once the county has reached the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MODHSS) Category 2: Critical Risk, and maintains this status for 7 days.

The Taney County Health Department Board of Trustees also adopted new MODHSS guidelines regarding contact tracing on December 14, 2020. These new guidelines encourage high burden counties, such as Taney County, to redirect resources from contact tracing to case investigations and other community mitigation strategies. TCHD is currently providing limited contact tracing outside of the school setting, certain high-risk settings, and businesses that have requested assistance.

In response, a new “Self-Report a COVID-19 Exposure” tool is available on the TCHD website. This tool allows individuals to self-report their exposure and receive documentation for their quarantine and release date in a timely fashion. TCHD is encouraging COVID-19 positive individuals to alert the people they were within 6 feet of for 15 minutes or more during the 48 hours prior to their first symptom, or the 48 hours prior to their test if they were asymptomatic. These individuals are considered close contacts that have been exposed to COVID-19 and should be alerted as quickly as possible so they can take appropriate steps to protect their health and the health of their loved ones.

For more information contact the Taney County Health Department at 417-334-4544, visit our website at www.taneycohealth.org, or like our FaceBook, Instagram and Pinterest pages.

###

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.