



Public Health
Protect. Promote. Prevent.

Cooper County Public Health Center

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To: General Public

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www.coopercopublichealth.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 09, 2020 5:00pm

Media Contact:

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(Boonville, MO) The Cooper County Public Health Center has received notification of the fourth positive case of COVID-19 in Cooper County. The patient's identity will remain confidential, the investigation is in process. We are working with this individual to insure they are following Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines in regarding isolation.

The Cooper County Public Health Center is currently working with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to conduct an investigation in an effort to identify any individual that may have come in close contact with the positive individual to monitor them for symptoms and assist in the containment of the virus.

We encourage anyone that suspects you have COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 to call your healthcare provider before seeking care, unless it is a life threatening emergency.

It is important that every member of the community continue to follow the CDC basic hygiene preventative measures. These measures include avoiding contact with people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, proper handwashing, cleaning frequently used surfaces, and staying home when sick.

The Cooper County Public Health Center has taken and will continue to take the necessary precautions to keep our community safe and will continue to diligently monitor the COVID-19 situation as it evolves by following the CDC guidelines to protect public health and limit spread of this infection.

- The Cooper County Public Health Center is announcing limited testing for Covid-19 by appointment only for individuals who are unable to obtain medical testing due to low income or lack of health insurance. Phone interviews for testing will start April 2, 2020 at 09:00am.

The process for obtaining Covid-19 medical testing is as follows:

- Individual needing testing **MUST** be *preapproved by health center staff through phone interview* approval. During the phone interview the individual must meet the following criteria:
 - Meet financial or insurance criteria.
 - Meet medical criteria for testing.

- Must have transportation to the Cooper County Public Health Center.
- Must be a Cooper County resident.

Walk in face to face interviews will not be conducted. The purpose of phone interviews is to reduce the health center exposure to the medically ill. Phone interviews must be completed in advance. This is not a walk-in clinic. Testing will be done by appointment only; in a drive thru setting. Please call 660-882-2626 for eligibility interview.

If You Believe You Have Symptoms

- Call the COVID-19 Hotline at 877.435.8411. Do not go to the emergency room or doctor's office before calling. If unable to get through, call your local healthcare provider.
- If you do not have a local healthcare provider, call the Cooper County Public Health Center at 660.882.2626. The Center does not have a physician on staff however, we will help you locate a healthcare provider.
- Follow the instructions provided by healthcare professionals.
- Stay home: People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 can isolate at home during their illness. You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care.
- Avoid public areas: Do not go to work, school, or public areas.
- Avoid public transportation: Avoid using public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.
- Stay away from others: As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Local Testing

Both MU Health Care and Boone Hospital Center have begun offering drive-thru testing.

MU Health Care will offer drive-thru COVID-19 testing for patients with physician orders. The drive-thru testing is for patients with mild symptoms who've been assessed by a provider either through a clinic or video visit. Testing will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily in the MU softball stadium parking lot. MU Health Care is now offering free video visits to assess for COVID-19. Patients should visit MUHealthVideoVisits.org and select the "COVID-19" video visit option.

Boone Hospital Center will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. The drive-thru is located south of the hospital's Emergency Department entrance on the southwest side. The drive-thru is offered for those who have been screened by a health professional.