



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Date: March 24, 2020  
To: All Media  
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**For Immediate Release**

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### **“Public Health Officials Announce New Case of COVID-19; Total 3 Cases in LaSalle County**

LaSalle County Health Department (LCHD) has confirmed an additional COVID-19 case in LaSalle County. The case is a female in her 30’s and had traveled to a known area of high exposure and confirmed cases. The individual is recovering at home in isolation. Federal privacy restrictions prohibit the release of any additional information regarding this case. Public health officials are working actively to identify and investigate all individuals who were in contact with the case. No further information regarding the investigation is available at this time.

Testing for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at the State Lab is limited and protocols are in place to prioritize those tested. Currently, the State Public Health laboratories are only testing hospitalized patients and clusters in a congregate setting that serves more vulnerable populations such as a supportive care facility, assisted living facility, group home, homeless shelter, or correctional setting.

Testing guidelines have changed frequently throughout this situation. There could be pending results tested under previous guidelines. Testing is requested by healthcare providers at hospitals and then authorized by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and/or the local health department. If the individual is not approved for testing, healthcare providers can request testing through a commercial lab. There is limited commercial testing available locally. Negative testing conducted through commercial labs is not required to be reported to local health departments, however, we will still be notified of any positive cases from IDPH State Lab or commercial labs.

The Health Department expects to see additional cases and residents need to assume that they have been exposed to COVID-19. Every single LaSalle County resident can help by staying home, limiting the number of people you are in contact with, maintaining a 6-foot distance from others, and washing your hands. If someone develops symptoms of cough and fever, they should stay home and isolate themselves from others. Should symptoms worsen, they should contact their healthcare providers immediately.

On Saturday, March 21, 2020, Governor Pritzker’s “Stay at Home Executive Order” went into effect until April 7, 2020. The order prohibits things like visiting the homes of friends and holding gatherings of any size. The order closes all non-essential establishments, including most retail, recreation, and entertainment businesses. It does not prohibit essential activities like going to the grocery store, taking your pet for a walk, or receiving medical care. Be mindful of those who are at a greater risk for contracting this virus, including older adults and those with certain health conditions. All of these measures will help reduce the number of people who become sick at any given time and the possibility of exhausting our health care resources. Stay home and stay healthy!

-More-

The LaSalle County Health Department encourages residents to stay informed on the evolving situation. Get the latest guidance for school, employers and community preparedness by visiting [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#) or by visiting the Health Department's website at [www.lasallecounty.org](http://www.lasallecounty.org). For general questions about COVID-19, call the IDPH hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email [dph.sick@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.sick@illinois.gov).

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