



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

St. Joseph County Department of Health

"Promoting physical and mental health and facilitating the prevention of disease, injury and disability for all St. Joseph County residents"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COVID-19 Cases Update

St. Joseph County- As of today, the county's total number of confirmed cases is at 667. We are confirming 4 new deaths over the weekend, bringing the total number of deaths in St. Joseph County to 27; three of these deaths were residents of other counties which occurred in health care facilities in St. Joseph County.

Beginning tonight, May 4, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. St. Joseph County Public Health Order 1-2020 will go into effect. All residents will be required to wear a face covering over one's nose and mouth when entering an enclosed public space or place of business whenever social distancing cannot be maintained. Exceptions include persons who have a medical contraindication; persons who could not deliver or receive services while wearing a face covering (e.g. while eating at a restaurant); and, in an addendum to the order today, children under the age of two. Additionally, staff and children at a childcare program are encouraged to wear face coverings when feasible, but they will not be mandatory in those settings. Business establishments open to customers must have readily accessible hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol).

As businesses begin to re-open and public interaction increases as permitted under Governor Holcomb's order, it is critical to remember that the coronavirus has NOT disappeared, and the risks of transmission and infection persist. Individuals at high risk of complications (the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions) are urged to continue to limit their public interactions. We all must continue to adopt and adapt behaviors that minimize the spread of coronavirus and safeguard the health of our community.

The St. Joseph County Department of Health urges the continuation of the following actions:

- **Practice extreme physical distancing.**
 - Maintain at least 6ft between individuals.
 - Wearing a mask does NOT eliminate the need for physical distancing.
- **Practice frequent and proper hand hygiene & cough etiquette.**
 - Wash hands often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap & water; coughing and sneezing into your sleeve.
- **Stay home if ill.**

For more information on COVID-19, visit the Indiana State Department of Health at www.in.gov/isdh and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov. For general questions as it relates to COVID-19 infection, please call 2-1-1.

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