Community Partner Update
COVID-19
Issued 3-27-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Linn County Status:</th>
<th>Current State of Iowa Status:</th>
<th>Current National Status:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Cases: 22</td>
<td># of Cases: 235</td>
<td># of Cases: 100,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Deaths: 0</td>
<td># of Deaths: 3</td>
<td># of Deaths: 1,544</td>
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</tbody>
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Key Messages

- COVID-19 is circulating in Linn County. It should be assumed more people are infected than have been laboratory diagnosed, as some people will have mild or no symptoms. Every person in Linn County has a responsibility to take all of these measures seriously to prevent overwhelming the healthcare system.
  - Isolation recommendations for well Iowans with potential COVID-19 exposure should stay at home and isolate themselves from other people and animals in the home in the following situations. Isolation should be in place for 14 days after the last exposure.
    - Traveled outside of Iowa for business or vacation in the last 14 days.
    - Taken a cruise anywhere in the world in the last 14 days.
    - Live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19.
  - Isolation recommendations for Iowans ill with fever or respiratory symptoms (like cough or difficulty breathing) - Most mildly ill residents do not need to go to their healthcare provider or be tested to confirm they have COVID-19. Sick residents must stay home and isolate themselves from others in their house. If you think you may need healthcare, call first. Your provider can assess whether you need to be seen in the office or if you can recover at home. Stay home and isolate from others in the house until you have ALL of the following:
    - You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of fever reducing medications)
    - Other symptoms have improved for at least 72 hours (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved continually over three days)
    - At least 7 days have passed since your first symptoms appeared.
- Practice the 3 Cs - Cover your cough. Clean your hands. Contain yourself at home when sick.
• Everyone must practice social distancing by maintaining a 6 foot distance between yourself and other people, and avoid gatherings of more than 10 people.
• Employers are strongly encouraged to have staff work from home when possible.

**Significant Issues/Concerns:**

• More epidemiological data available on cases which will help establish trends, burden of disease, etc.
• EMS and many healthcare providers have indicated PPE supplies are inadequate. Supplies are on backorder.

**Sector Specific Updates**

**Definitions**

• Incident Command System (ICS) - A standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of incident management, providing a common hierarchy within which personnel from multiple organizations can be effective.
• Unified Command - An ICS application used when more than one agency has incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions.
  - Unified Command was activated 3/23/2020.

**Behavioral Health**

• Crisis is affecting not just the vulnerable population, but also the normally healthy population. Resources are available to assist.
  - Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health (free download) Click here
  - Addressing Anxiety about Novel Coronavirus Click here
  - Stay connected to friends and family with social media. Free online training is available to help you learn how to use various social media platforms. Click here
  - Information on dementia care during the COVID-19 pandemic Click here
  - Foundation 2 Crisis line at 362-2174 or use their chat line Click here
  - Contact the National Crisis Text Line. To do so, text HOME to 741741. This line is free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
  - National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
  - Use the Iowa 211 resource and referral helpline. Visit 211iowa.org, text your ZIP code to 898211, or dial 211 or 800-244-7431 from any phone. Help navigators are available any time of day and trained to assist individuals in connecting to local services. An interpretation service supports more than 150 languages.
  - Iowa Warm Line - Serving: Benton, Bremer, Buchanan, Delaware, Dubuque, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, and Linn Counties. The warm line is a peer run, telephone based,
non-crisis, confidential, listening line for anyone struggling with mental health or substance abuse issues. The Warm Line is staffed by people who have been through a similar journey and are in recovery themselves. Call Toll Free: 1-844-775-9276 from 2 PM -10 PM

**Volunteer**

- **Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster**
  - Organization retains a list of volunteer opportunities available for those willing to help our community during COVID-19. Click the link to view opportunities and sign up to volunteer! **Please note:** Once you sign up, the organization you signed up with will contact you with more information. Additional information about Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster visit [www.linndisasterinfo.com](http://www.linndisasterinfo.com/)

**Food Nutrition Resources**

- **Women Infants and Children**
  - Lobbies are closed but WIC staff are providing all WIC services via phone (as per guidance from the state WIC office). Clients who are already enrolled in WIC will have benefits loaded on their cards after their phone appointment and new clients are sent cards in the mail.

- **HACAP Food Reservoir**
  - HACAP is working with school districts to provide food boxes to families who utilize the district/community feeding resources.
  - Mobile food pantries are operating.
  - Church sponsored foodbanks are operational.

- **Heritage Area Agency on Aging**
  - All congregate dining sites continue to provide meals to their existing consumers through pick-up methods and/or volunteer delivery options. Sites are all closed due to Governor’s proclamation.

- **Horizons**
  - Offering frozen meals to clients that will last for a full week as well as shelf stable goods.
  - New challenge is getting frozen meals to those that do not have bus service anymore.

- **Green Square Meals**
  - Serving to go meals, but numbers of clients served has tripled due to the pandemic. See report from KCRG [here](https://kcrg.com/).

- **School District Meal Sites**
  - School meal locations: [https://www.gwaea.org/covid-19](https://www.gwaea.org/covid-19)

**Healthcare and Emergency Medical Services**
Hospitals are taking steps to increase capacity by adding beds and cross training staff. However, preventing the healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed remains paramount.

All nonessential and elective medical procedures are to be suspended along with nonemergency dental procedures in order to conserve PPE as of 3/26/20 per Governor Reynolds.

Telehealth services are to be covered by insurance at the same rate as in person services as of 3/26/20 per Governor Reynolds.

Hospitals, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, residential care facilities, hospice programs, and assisted living programs must screen all staff at the beginning of their shift for fever or respiratory symptoms, absence or shortness of breath, new or change in cough, or sore throat, take the employee's temperature, and take any preventative measures based on that screening to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as of 3/26/20 per Governor Reynolds.

Find the full address from the Governor’s Office here.

LCPH will share their call script with LAP-AID for the call scripts used for public may contact Julie.stephens@linncounty.org or amy.drahos@linncounty.org

- Essential Services Personnel Information Click Here

**School & Colleges**

- Guidance for schools and teachers in response to COVID-19. Click Here
- Information for students and families that are not English speaking Click Here

**Businesses & Other Organizations**

- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Business and Organizations Click Here
- Essential Services Personnel Information Click Here
- Cedar Rapids Transit has stopped fixed-route bus service until April 13, 2020.
- Food Establishments Click Here
- Guidance for Foodservice from National Restaurant Association/Servsafe Click Here
- Per Governor Reynold on March 26, 2020:
  - Closures of bars, restaurants (other than carryout and delivery), fitness centers, swimming pools, salons, medical spas, barbershops, tattoo establishments, tanning facilities, massage therapy establishments, theaters, casino and gaming facilities, senior citizen centers and adult day care facilities, and other mass gatherings of more than 10 people have been extended from March 31, 2020 to April 7 2020.
  - Additionally, the following are also now closed until April 7, 2020: Bookstores, clothing stores, shoe stores, jewelry stores, luggage stores, cosmetic, beauty, or perfume stores, florists, furniture and home furnishing stores.
  - Grocery stores, pharmacies, and establishments offering essential food and medical supplies are not affected by the updated orders.
Information Resources

General
- 2019 Novel Coronavirus Fact Sheet Click here
- CDC Document on Mitigation Strategies Click here
- COVID-19 Infographics Click here
- COVID-19 Information in multiple languages Click here Click here and Click here
- Information about self-isolation Click here and Click here
- Older Adults and COVID-19 Click here
- COVID-19 Mapping Resource Click here
- CDC Mass Gatherings: Click here
- CDC Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations: Click here
- Stay connected during social isolation via social media https://socialmedia4beginners.com/

Public Call Center
Use the Iowa 211 resource and referral helpline. Visit 211Iowa.org, text your ZIP code to 898211, or dial 211 or 800-244-7431 from any phone. Help navigators are available any time of day and trained to assist individuals in connecting to local services. An interpretation service supports more than 150 languages.

Joint Information Center (JIC)
A virtual Joint Information Center (JIC) staffed by Public Information Officers, or PIOs, from responding organizations was activated on March 16, 2020. The JIC has daily meetings to share and coordinate messages related to COVID-19, including press conference content, joint news releases, and messaging campaigns.

Press Conferences
Currently Linn County partner organizations are holding press conferences Mondays and Thursdays at 3:30 pm unless more frequently is warranted due to changing events.

Live feed of the press conference is posted on Linn County Public Health Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/LCPublicHealth/

Requests to speak at scheduled press conferences should be submitted to the JIC Manager at Linn County Public Health, Jo Bridgewater (jo.bridgewater@linncounty.org). Requests will be reviewed by the JIC/PIO team to ensure an efficient, coordinated message. Speakers should include in the request their key talking points. The JIC requests speakers share information that is urgent, breaking or different from other press conference speakers, and be the most qualified person to address this topic. If a person has information to share, but does not want to speak, the information can be shared on their behalf. They are asked to keep remarks to 3-5 minutes to fit within the goal total press conference time of 20-30 minutes.

Updated 3/27/2020
Relevant Websites (for targeted guidance, fact sheets, infographics, etc.)
- LCPH Webpage: www.LinnCounty.org/COVID-19
- WHO Webpage: https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus

Telephone Contacts
- General Public Information hotline: 2-1-1 Iowa
- LCPH 24/7 contact/Officer on call: 319-892-6050
- IDPH 24/7 contact/Officer on Call: 800-362-2736

Press Releases
- Iowa Department of Public Health: https://idph.iowa.gov/News