Community Partner Update
COVID-19
Issued 4-10-2020

<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: 225</td>
<td># of Cases: 1,388</td>
<td># of Cases: 491,358</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Deaths: 12</td>
<td># of Deaths: 31</td>
<td># of Deaths: 18,316</td>
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National Public Health Week

- April 6 -12, 2020 is designated as National Public Health Week
- “Public health is what we do as a society to assure conditions in which people can be healthy, and public health matters to every Iowan, every day. There is a science and an art to public health practice, and that blend of technical skills and adaptive leadership is on display. We look to public health to apply the bench science (what we are learning about the novel COVID-19 virus itself) and the epidemiological science (the determinants and distribution of disease) in this response. However, we also require of them art and strategic skills of effective communication, resource management, problem solving and policy engagement.”  Jeneane Moody’s complete article in the Des Moines Register

Key Messages

- As the weather gets nicer, more Iowans will be riding bicycles and using the trails to be physically active outdoors. Physical activity is important for overall health, but must be done responsibly to slow the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing guidelines should be followed outdoors as well as indoors. All individuals, including bicyclists, runners, and other trail users, should maintain 6 feet between other people and not gather in groups or with others outside of their immediate household. Even though you are outdoors, the virus can still spread to others. Everyone should do their part to slow the spread of the virus.

- Social distancing should also be followed during religious holidays and other significant life events such as funerals, birthdays, or other occasions. As we have stated before, the
actions you take today will impact how long this public health emergency will affect our everyday lives.

- Take care of yourself.

## Significant Issues & Updates:

### Unified Command

In a previous update we shared Unified Command was activated 3/23/2020. Unified Command (UC) is an Incident Command System application used when more than one agency has incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions. Community partners to include public health are in leadership and supporting UC roles. If you are interested in learning more about our community’s Unified Command structure, listen to Jason Andrews, Cedar Rapids Fire Department Training Chief discuss community collaboration in pandemic response. Inside Cedar Rapids Podcast

### Governor Reynolds’ Office

On April 4, 2020 Governor Reynolds signed a new proclamation continuing the State Public Health Declaration. Information on additional closures can be found here

- Campgrounds are on the list of closures, however a clarification was obtained regarding healthcare workers. Per the Gov. Reynolds’ Legal Counsel, “Healthcare workers that are staying at a campground as a part of the COVID-19 response are not prohibited by the proclamation. The campground shouldn’t otherwise be open to the public, however.”

### Social Distancing

- A previous proclamation (information noted in link above) states, “Social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of more than 10 people are hereby prohibited at all locations and venues, including but not limited to parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers.”

- [CDC Interim Guidance for Administrator and Leaders of Community and Faith-Based Organization to plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

- As this is a holiday weekend some organizations have asked “Drive-In” Worship. Guidance has been provided by IDPH [Click here](#)

### Communications

- **Linn County Public Health Virtual Town Hall**
  
  LCPH plans to host regular virtual town halls meetings covering topics related to COVID-19. The first virtual town hall was held April 10th via GoToMeeting. Heather Meador and Dustin Hinrichs from LCPH and Dr. Dustin Arnold from Unity Point Health shared how
individuals can reduce the community spread of COVID-19. Community members are encouraged to submit questions.

- Recorded press conferences and virtual town halls will be posted on Linn County Public Health’s Facebook page and the Linn County YouTube page. The next town hall will be Friday, April 17 with the topic Mental Health. More information to come on the time.

**Business**

- **COVID-19 Outbreak Guidance for Businesses 04/08/2020**
- **IDPH COVID-19 Guidance – Business and Organizations**
- **Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance - Business Resources for COVID-19**
- **Foundation 2 Webinar: Mental Health Resources and Strategies for Business Leaders** on April 14 at 3 - 4 p.m., covering short and long term considerations for mental health as leaders, conversations leaders should be having with colleagues, strategies to support and promote mental wellness among teams, and resources to turn to when times get tough.
- The Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation (GCRF) has established the **COVID-19 Disaster Response Fund**. The GCRF is accepting donations “to provide rapid response to needs in our communities and address human service needs of our most vulnerable populations.” Use the link to donate.
- **GCRF Community Cycle 1 Grant Application**. The application deadline is April 15, 2020. During Cycle 1, funds will be directed to address organizational and community needs in Linn County resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic crisis.
- **The Gazette Coronavirus Business Resources**
  This a database providing business owners and administrative staff the ability to search and review programs and assistance available for businesses.
- **Kirkwood Corporate Training Webinars- Workplace Resiliency in Unprecedented Times**
  To register, call 319-398-5623 or email corporatetraining@kirkwood.edu.
  - April 22, Part I: Mental Health and Empathetic Listening
  - April 29, Part II: Strategies to Maintain Mental Health while Working Remotely
  - May 6, Part III: Helping Employees with Anxiety and Depression Stay Engaged
  - May 13, Part IV: Reducing Stigma and Building Resilience During COVID-19
- **Iowa Workforce Development (IWD)**
  - IWD is accepting applications for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, which provides unemployment benefits for the self-employed, independent contractors, nonprofit employees, gig economy workers, those who have exhausted other unemployment insurance benefits, and those who may not have sufficient work history to qualify for a regular state claim.

**Food**

- Mobile Food Pantry schedule and information [Click here](#)
Homelessness

- Shelters are still at capacity (Waypoint, Willis Dady, and Catholic Worker House). Overflow shelter is at 50 each night with capacity for 55.

Language

- LAP AID Multi-lingual Resources - LAP AID list of COVID-19 resources translated in multiple languages.
  - Additional resources:
    - Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services
    - EMBARC Iowa
    - Catherine McAuley Center

Law

- Mitigation practices for law enforcement

Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities

- LifeLong Links: 1-866-468-7887
- Long Term Care Facility 04/06/20 webinar

Personal Protective Equipment

- PPE Shortage Order 4/9/2020
- PPE Guidance at Long Term Care Facilities
- Guidance for face mask/respirator extended use and re-use
- Guidance to convert other devices to ventilators
- Use of Homemade Gowns for Patient Care when Commercially-produced Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is Unavailable
- CDC Cloth Face Coverings: Questions and Answers
- CDC Personal Protective Equipment: Questions and Answers

Schools

- Governor Reynolds closed schools through April 30, 2020
- Daycare: On April 6, 2020 LAPAID reports 995 in Linn County and 549 Cedar Rapids open daycare slots in existing Linn County Daycares.
- Continuous Learning: The Department of Education outlined 3 paths for schools during school closures:
  1. The school has only minimal contact with students or no contact with students—in essence does little or nothing—with this option the school must make up lost instructional time.
  2. Continuous Learning
     A. Optional continuous learning—learning activities are optional for students. Schools must engage students and be prepared to provide guidance and feedback although it may not be graded.
B. Required continuous learning—learning activities are required and are nearly as rigorous as a typical in-person course. Work can be graded in this scenario.

**Sector Information**

**Iowa Legal Aid**
- Iowa Legal Aid in partnership with the Iowa Bar Association and Polk County Legal Volunteers have launched a new legal hotline: 1-800-332-0419. This is a free service for anyone in the State of Iowa. There are no income restrictions to use this service. No one will be turned away.
- [Iowa Legal Aid – 2020 Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

**Behavioral Health**
- [Waypoint](#) offers domestic violence victim services, homeless & housing services, and child care programs. 24 hour resource & support line: 319-363-2093 or 1-800-208-0388.
- [Iowa Domestic Violence Hotline](#): 1-800-770-1650 or Text: IOWAHELP to 20121
- [Iowa DHS Child Abuse Hotline](#): 1-800-362-2178
- [The Gazette Resident Resource page](#): “The City of Cedar Rapids along with The Gazette and area service providers have launched a new online database of resident resources to help citizens navigate support resources available during the COVID-19 health crisis.
- Dial 2-1-1 or 800-244-7431 with general questions about COVID-19. Visit [211Iowa.org](http://211Iowa.org) or text your ZIP code to 898211. Help navigators are available any time of day, and trained to assist individuals in connecting to local services. Interpretation services support more than 150 languages.
- [Foundation 2’s Crisis Line](#) is available at 319-362-2174. Anyone may call this number to request support when feeling anxious or depressed, or have feelings that don’t seem to make sense. For individuals who would like to speak with someone face-to-face, mobile crisis counselors are available via tele-support by calling the crisis line.
- People may text COVID to 741741 to receive mental health support via text from the [National Crisis Text Line](http://#).
- The Iowa Warm Line is available at 1-844-775-WARM (9276) for those who are not in crisis, but feel lonely and would like to speak with someone.
- [East Central Region Mental Health and Disability Services](#)
- [National Suicide Prevention Hotline](#): 1-800-273-8255
- Stay connected to friends and family with social media.
  - Access free online training to help you learn how to use various social media platforms [here](#).
- Coping with stress and anxiety resources:
  - [Addressing Anxiety about COVID-19](#)
Psychologists’ Advice for Newly Remote Workers
How Leaders can Maximize Trust and Minimize Stress during COVID-19
Coronavirus: Mental Health Coping Strategies

Substance use resources:
- Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC) Substance use resources: Call 319-390-4611 for help and treatment options.
- Mutual Aid Recovery Resources
- COVID-19: Potential Implications for Individuals with Substance Use Disorders
- COVID-19 Resources for Addiction Professionals: National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC)

Businesses & Other Organizations
- FEMA Public Assistance program is a potential funding source that became available through the presidential declaration. Some nonprofit programs are eligible for assistance. FEMA uses the terminology “private non-profit”.
  - To be an eligible non-profit FEMA asks for documentation of current ruling letter from IRS granting tax exemption, bylaws or incorporation documents that outline your mission, copy of full insurance policy to avoid duplication of benefits.
  - Service you are providing has to be related to the safety of the public
  - FEMA divides eligible type of service the nonprofit provides into two categories:
    - Critical services (i.e. education, can be religiously affiliated), medical facilities, emergency services
    - Non-critical (essentially social services provided by the nonprofits). Examples include: Alcohol and drug treatment, Rehabilitation, Assisted living, certain childcare/daycare services, Homeless shelters, Faith based, Libraries
      - Typically does not allow services more athletic in nature or political
  - Non-profits are encouraged to apply. FEMA will review and determine eligibility
- Email Rick Biondi for questions: Richard.biondi@iowa.gov
- On 4-2-20, Gov. Reynolds signed a new proclamation continuing the State Public Health Emergency Declaration. This shall expire on April 30th, 2020.
  - 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, adult day care facilities, bookstores, clothing stores, shoe stores, jewelry stores, luggage stores, cosmetic, beauty or perfume stores, florists, furniture and home furnishing stores are closed until April 30, 2020.
• Resources for Organizations and Businesses:
  o Businesses and Organizations
    • Disinfecting Your Facility if Someone is Sick
  o Essential Services Personnel
  o Food Establishments
  o Childcare Resources in Response to COVID-19

Child Care
• Child Care for Essential Personnel
• Essential personnel workforce can receive information about available child care by contacting:
  o Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral at 1-855-244-5301
  o DHS Workforce Child Care Map
Note: The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) encourages parents who are telecommuting to keep their children home with them.

Food Nutrition Resources
• LAP AID list of meal sites and food distribution points.
• HACAP Food Reservoir Mobile Food Pantry Schedule - April
• Iowa Department of Human Services
  DHS Takes Multiple Steps to Ensure Food Security, Including New Online Options Through Amazon and Walmart
• HACAP Food Reservoir
• Heritage Area Agency on Aging
• Horizons
• Green Square Meals
• School District Meal Sites
• Women Infants and Children (WIC)
  o Iowa: COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities for USDA nutrition programs.
  o IDPH Guidance for WIC Recipients

Volunteer
• Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster (LAP AID)
  o Volunteer Needs and Sign Up
    Please note: Once you sign up, the organization you signed up with will contact you with more information.

Information Resources

General
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
Linn County partner organizations hold press conferences on Mondays and Thursdays at 3:30 pm.

Live feed of the press conference is posted on Linn County Public Health’s Facebook page and on Linn County’s YouTube Channel.

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.

Press Releases
- Linn County Public Health Press Releases
- Iowa Department of Public Health Press Releases

Relevant Websites (for targeted guidance, fact sheets, infographics, etc.)
- Linn County Public Health (LCPH)
- Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)
• **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**
  o **Travel Information**
• **World Health Organization (WHO)**

**Rumor Control Information**
• **Federal Trade Commission**
• **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
• **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

**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