Community Partner Update
COVID-19
Issued 4-24-2020

<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: 519</td>
<td># of Cases: 3,924</td>
<td># of Cases: 828,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Deaths: 34</td>
<td># of Deaths: 9</td>
<td># of Deaths: 46,379</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past and future versions of this report can be found on the Linn County Public Health [COVID-19 web page](https://LinnCounty.org) under Community Partner Update and will no longer be emailed each Friday.

The report format has been shorted to remove past resources as Community Partner Updates are archived for reference.

Updates

**Business**
It has not been indicated when all business sectors will reopen, however some businesses have begun planning for future operations. Business leaders should recognize the importance of social distancing and supportive sick leave policies to allow for self-isolation needs.

**Communications**
LCPH hosted the third town hall on April 24th. This week’s discussion focused on information for businesses, including best practices and resources available for assistance. Jasmine Almoayyed from the City of Cedar Rapids – COVID-19 Business Continuity and Recovery Branch, Heather Meador and Dustin Hinrichs from Linn County Public Health, and Lacey Hogan from Alliant Energy provided information and answered questions during the virtual town hall. Previous Town Hall discussions may be viewed here.

**EPA Guidance - Safe Disinfectant Use**
On 4/23/2020 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided information to the American public about safe disinfectant use. When using an EPA-registered surface disinfectant, always follow the product’s directions and remember:
- Never apply the product to yourself or others. Do not ingest disinfectant products. This includes never applying any product on List N (the agency’s list of disinfectants to use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19) directly to food.
- Never mix products unless specified in the use directions. Certain combinations of chemicals will create highly toxic acids or gases.
• Wash the surface with soap and water before applying disinfectant products if the label mentions pre-cleaning.
• Follow the contact time listed for your product on List N. This is the amount of time the surface must remain visibly wet to ensure efficacy against the virus. It can sometimes be several minutes.
• Wash your hands after using a disinfectant. This will minimize your exposure to the chemicals in the disinfectant and the pathogen you are trying to kill.

**Food Assistance**
United Way of East Central Iowa has partnered with Hy-Vee and Lindale Mall to conduct a food drive supporting older adults May 1-3. See [flyer](#) for the details on times, location, and items accepted.

**Governor Reynolds’ Office**
- **TestIowa**
  - On April 21, 2020, Governor Kim Reynolds launched the [TestIowa](#) initiative to expand testing capacity to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Iowa. The state is partnering with Nomi Health and its subsidiary DOMO which has already launched a similar initiative in the state of Utah. Gov. Reynolds made the announcement at Tuesday’s news conference. [Watch here](#).
  - We know many people have questions about the Governor’s TestIowa initiative. LCPH was not involved in the planning and implementation of TestIowa and learned about the new testing option during the Governor’s press conference. We have fielded some inquiries as the TestIowa assessment indicates some Linn County residents should have a COVID-19 test, but there is currently no way for them to sign up. Our message continues to be to encourage all ill Iowans to not wait for TestIowa if they are experiencing symptoms of illness, but please contact your healthcare provider. If you have questions regarding TestIowa, please visit the [TestIowa website](#) or contact the governor’s office at 515-281-5211.

- **4/24/2020 Proclamation**
  - Health care providers can begin the process of resuming some elective surgeries and procedures through a phased approach starting April 27, 2020.
  - Farmers Markets are allowed to open with precautions
  - [Proclamation](#) and [Governor’s Press Release](#)

**Linn County COVID-19 Case Count Increase**
Linn County experienced a large increase in the number of COVID-19 positive cases due to testing at nearby meat processing plants. We anticipate the climb will continue with additional testing at the facilities. These increases are a reminder of how easily this virus is transmitted,
and that we continue to have community spread of this virus. Any person is at risk of contracting this virus, and everyone should do what they can to prevent spread.

**Linn County Public Health COVID-19 Data**
- [Linn County COVID-19 Maps](#) and related data representation has been expanded. Information now includes confirmed cases by zip code, date, sex, age, race, and ethnicity.
- Information can be translated by selecting the Google translation icon circled in green below.

![Linn County COVID-19 Data](image)

**Long-term Care**
In past updates, LCPH has shared information about long-term care outbreak and response. It is important to recognize the healthcare workers supporting long-term care facilities. At the 4/23/2020 Linn County press conference both Mayor AbouAssaly of Marion and Linn County Supervisor Walker took time to recognize the work of long-term care facility employees. They have worked tireless hours to care for a population who have drastically impacted by COVID-19.

**Schools**
With her April 17, 2020 daily press conference, Governor Reynolds closed school districts for the remainder of the academic year. With this announcement she extended the stipulation that time for missed days and hours would not need to be made up if districts employed either voluntary or required continuous learning. The basic outline of continuous learning is below:

- **Continuous Learning**
  - A. Voluntary continuous learning: Learning activities are optional for students. Schools must engage students meaningfully 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.

**Volunteer Needs**
- Several groups/organizations are in need of volunteers. There are options that can be done remote. [Click here](#) if you are able to volunteer.

Updated 4/24/2020
Health Insurance
- To apply for Iowa Medicaid visit:
  - Department of Human Services (DHS): How to Apply - Health Care
  - DHS Services Portal
- To determine if a person can sign up or change health insurance on the Marketplace, visit HealthCare.gov. Only individuals with life changes that qualify for a special enrollment period can apply.

Information Resources

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 PIO at Linn County Public Health, Kaitlin Emrich (Kaitlin.Emrich@linncounty.org).
- Recorded press conferences are posted on Linn County Public Health’s Facebook page, on the Linn County YouTube Channel, and on Linn County’s website.

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)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

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

Updated 4/24/2020