



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Linn County, Iowa

LINN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH



COVID-19 Response for the Business Community

April 17, 2020

*Updated May 11, 2020

*Updated July 23, 2020



April 9, 2020

The Iowa Department of Public Health issued new guidance for the business community regarding outbreaks among employees.

Why are we discussing this:

April 13, 2020 - KCRG



Home / Eastern Iowa / Article

Tama beef plant suspends operations after workers get virus



The Florida Health Department has released the latest COVID-19 numbers for the evening of Monday, April 6. (MGN)

By Associated Press | Posted: Mon 10:09 AM, Apr 13, 2020

April 7, 2020 - NPR



THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Meat Processing Plants Suspend Operations After Workers Fall Ill

April 7, 2020 · 1:41 PM ET

 DAN CHARLES 



Tyson Foods says it has suspended operations at its pork plant in Columbus Junction, Iowa, pictured in February 2013, after more than two dozen workers got sick with COVID-19.

Ryan J. Foley/AP

Prevention:

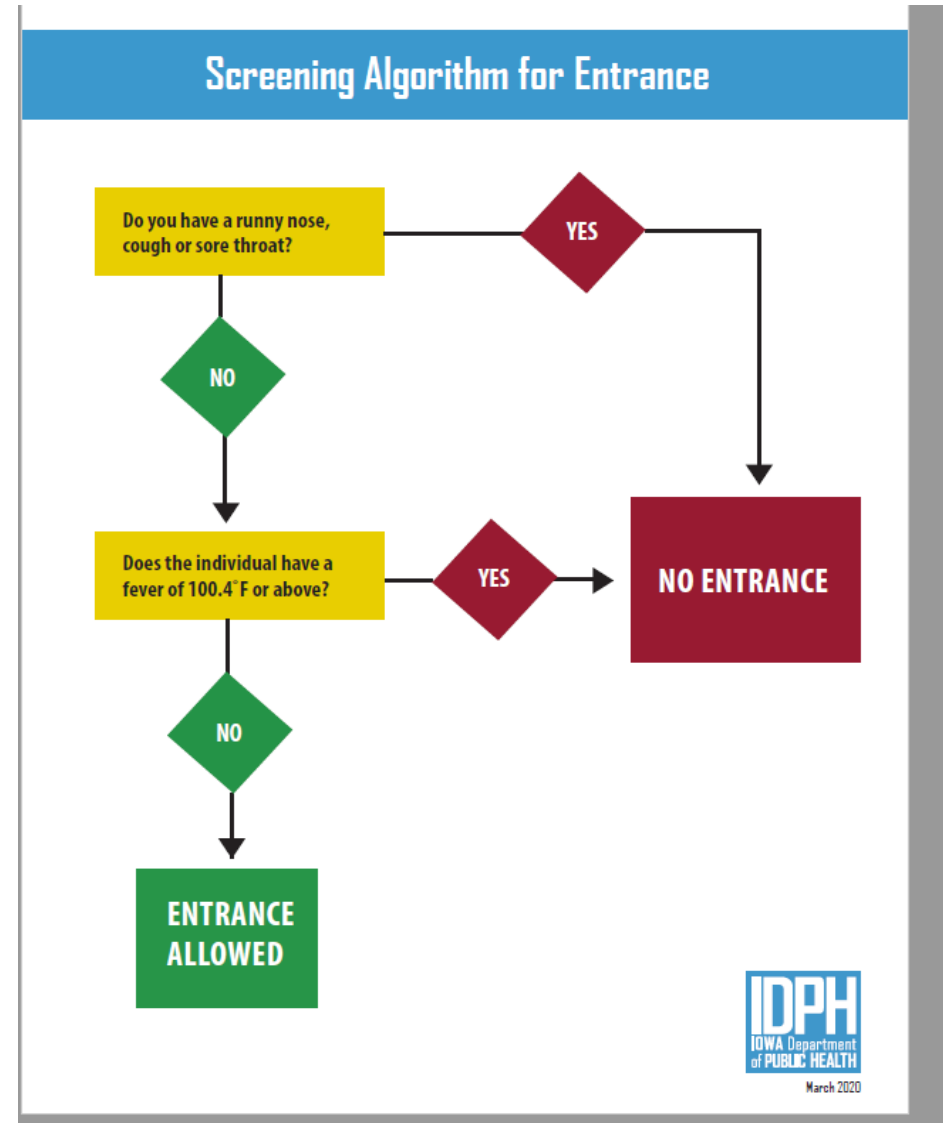
- Businesses should implement measures to enable social distancing as much as possible.
 - Encourage flexible work-from-home and leave policies.
 - Consider staggering shifts to reduce worker population at any given time.
 - Stagger breaks to reduce staff interactions.
 - Review procedures to identify ways to increase the physical separation of staff.

Prevention:

- Businesses should prioritize hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette among employees.
 - Businesses should provide or allow employees to wear their own homemade cloth facemasks.
 - Businesses should provide hand sanitizer or handwashing opportunities as frequently as possible.
- Communicate with all staff the importance of staying home, no matter how mild the illness.

Prevention:

1. Screen all employees prior to entry.
2. Any employee that demonstrates symptoms of illness should remain home until:
 - **1 day*** free of fever without the use of medication AND
 - Symptom improvement AND
 - **10 days*** from on-set of symptoms



Prevention:

Businesses should consider excluding high-risk employees when **outbreaks are ongoing**. High-risk employees would include:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:
 - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - People who have serious heart conditions
 - People who are immunocompromised
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] ≥ 40)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease
- Pregnant women

Prevention:

- Screen all employees by taking their temperature and assessing for cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing or any other respiratory symptom at the beginning and end of each shift.

Prevention:

Exclusion criteria must be followed with all symptomatic employees, regardless of whether the testing is completed (even if the employee tests negative for COVID-19 infection).

Prevention:

Exclude all employees reporting fever or respiratory symptoms (these cases will be directed to stay home and isolate themselves from other people and animals in the home) until they:

- Have had no fever for at least 24 hours* (that is one full day of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) **AND**
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved) **AND**
- At least 10 days* have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

Prevention:

- Linn County Public Health does not want our county business leaders to wait for 10% or greater of your employees to become ill.
 - Call us if you are seeing trends.
 - If we have a case of COVID-19 in a Linn County resident, we talk to the resident and obtain permission to contact employers.

Manage the Outbreak:

- Coordinate with your occupational health provider to define a pathway to test symptomatic employees.
 - Public health will approve State Hygienic Laboratory testing for symptomatic employees during outbreaks.
 - The occupational health provider or employees' personal health providers will be responsible for collecting the nasopharyngeal swab for testing and following-up for medical care as needed.

Managing the Outbreak

When employees test positive for COVID-19 infection, public health and occupational health will work jointly to investigate cases and identify the following contacts:

- household contacts,
- rideshare partners, and
- co-workers with prolonged contact (within 6 feet of the case for at least 30 minutes).

All of these contacts will be directed to stay at home and isolate themselves from other people and animals in the home for 14 days after the last known exposure to a person with COVID-19.

Managing the Outbreak:

Business decisions to close, should be based upon workforce availability and the ability to follow the recommended measures outlined in previous slides.

Linn County Public Health does not close an Iowa Business due to infectious disease, we only provide guidance.

Managing the Outbreak:

- Information regarding the cleaning and disinfection for community facilities can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- List of approved cleaners can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Questions:

- Can an occupational health clinic perform testing now?
 - Yes, but you are responsible for your PPE (personal protective equipment) and for obtaining the test kits.

Questions:

- Can occupational health clinics send the samples into SHL for analysis?
 - Yes. However, you must use the IDPH guidelines for testing.
 - All hospitalized patients (of any age) with fever and respiratory illness
 - Older adults (>60 years of age) with fever and respiratory symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing) and chronic medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, or chronic kidney disease).
 - Persons of any age with fever or respiratory illness who live in congregate setting (i.e., long term care facilities, dormitories, residential facilities, correctional facilities, treatment facilities)
 - Healthcare workers, essential services personnel, first responders and critical infrastructure workers with fever or respiratory illness (ex. healthcare workers, fire and EMS, law enforcement, residential facility staff)

COVID-19 Testing Hotline:(855) 374-4692

Questions:

- If our staff do not qualify for testing with SHL, can we do anything else?
 - Yes, you can send test samples to a reference lab for testing.
 - We do not recommend mass testing for employees:
 - Although there are more test kits available, if wide spread testing starts, those will quickly become depleted.
 - This will put a strain on the PPE supply
 - Due to community spread, individuals that are negative today, may be positive in the next few days.
 - It is not recommended to test employees prior to return to work

Questions:

- What do I do if our company does not have an occupational health clinic?
 - Contact an occupational health clinic to set-up an account.
 - Employees may also see their private healthcare provider.
 - *Always call the provider before sending a person for testing!*



Questions???

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