

Public Safety Alert!

March 21, 2020
Osage County, Missouri
Susan Long
Health Department

This is Susan Long with the Osage County Health Department,

We realize everyone is concerned and some may even be scared and that's understandable. Please understand that public health and public safety officials from the county level all the way to the federal level are working as diligently as we can to minimize exposure but you have to help us help you.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, THERE WILL PROBABLY BE POSITIVE TESTS OCCURRING IN OSAGE COUNTY AND WE NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR THAT. IT WILL HAPPEN.

But as long as we are adhering to public safety officials' recommendations in regards to social distancing, washing of hands and avoiding large groups, it will help to minimize additional exposure.

We understand everyone wants to know who is being tested and if they're positive and unfortunately folks, you may never know. You will not get personal health information from anyone except the affected person. At this time, WE STILL DON'T HAVE ANY POSITIVE CASES IN OSAGE COUNTY. If and when we do, a public statement will be made.

Please do us a favor, help us spread facts, not rumors. Mean, inappropriate and conspiracy driven Facebook posts are not helpful and only increase panic. Please be kind to people. Check on your family members, friends and neighbors. This is a trying time for all of us.

We are being as open as possible. For the most up-to-date information on the local level, follow one or all of our County Government Facebook pages: Osage County Emergency Operations Center, Osage County Health Department, or Osage County Sheriff's Office – Missouri. If you know of people that haven't signed up for Smart911 to receive our alerts, please do! You can sign up at <https://www.smart911.com>.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Osage County Health Department at osagecountyhealthdepartment@gmail.com

If you're feeling overwhelmed, don't hesitate to reach out to the Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990 or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746.

A written posting of this message will be going out on the <https://www.osagecountyma.com> webpage. Please know that your local health department here in Osage County is putting in long hours to keep all the citizens as healthy and safe as we can. Thank you.