

Public Safety Alert!

April 22, 2020
Osage County, Missouri
Susan Long
Health Department

This is a recorded message. You are not receiving a personal phone call.

Good afternoon. This is Susan Long with the Osage County Health Department with an update for the county. Osage County received notification of its 5th COVID-19 case yesterday. The case and the contacts are quarantining as directed. This person was exposed at the place of employment. One of the contacts has been directed to seek medical care as she has symptoms similar to the case which started the same day as the case. Our first 3 cases are recovered and the 4th remains in quarantine. Social distancing is working as this was the first case in about 2 weeks. Testing is continuing to occur for county residents.

I had a teleconference meeting yesterday in regards to trying to anticipate needs that will be occurring in the county. I want to report that the Food Pantry can provide emergency food boxes by requesting them. Their hours of operation are: Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 11:30am and from 5:30pm to 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Arrangements have been made for delivery if you can't get out. Their phone number is 573-897-0525. In addition, families may now meet the income criteria for the WIC program if there has been a reduction in the family income. The health department is providing the WIC program via telephone calls and the program is issuing a WIC EBT card in place of the old WIC vouchers. You can find the WIC income guidelines on the Osage County Health Department website or on the Osage County EMA website. For more information or to schedule a time to talk with the WIC staff, please call 573-897-3103 or contact us via Facebook. Other items discussed included assistance with housing needs or gasoline vouchers. It was recommended that you contact one of the local churches and ask for assistance through the Ministerial Alliance. Energy assistance is available also through CMCA (the Central Missouri Community Action Agency). Their number is 573-897-3523. The health department website also has a large referral list of over 500 various agencies which you can access by clicking on the large orange arrow on top of the page. It is arranged by a master list as well as by categories noted on the tabs on the bottom of the page. Our website as well as the Osage County EMA website have links to numerous resources that you may find of value. If you don't have access to the internet, please feel free to call the health department with questions and we will do our best to help you out.

I know this has been hard on most people and we are seeing people demanding that the governor reopen the state prior to the May 4th date. A few have demanded that the county repeal its stay at home order also. The state is still in its acceleration period which means we are continuing to see the cases climb even with social distancing. The climb is not as steep as it could be without social distancing in place and that is good as it means we aren't overwhelming the health care system. I'm just as tired of not being able to do what I want to do as much as the next person. I'm following the rules though. I couldn't live with myself if I disregarded the stay at home orders and accidentally brought the COVID virus to my elderly mother or if I infected my co-workers who have small children and grandchildren. We don't know who will get extremely sick with this and who won't. AGAIN, **THIS** is about **ALL** of **US** and not just a chosen few.

Remember to continue to be kind to each other. Continue your social distancing, wear your cloth mask when you have to be out, disinfect frequently used surfaces often and use hand sanitizer or wash your hands regularly. Also, if you haven't filled out the census, get it done. It will benefit your community for the next 10 years. Don't listen to the conspiracy theories or get your information from unreliable sources. If you've got the time to surf the web, then fill your head with facts and not baloney. And don't forget to do something nice for yourself. Thank you for your time.