

18Aug2020

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This is Susan Long with the Osage County Health Department in Linn, MO. I was notified of a new case of COVID a short time ago and in the process of investigating the case and close contacts, it was determined that the symptomatic case had eaten at BJs Restaurant in Linn on Friday, August 14th from 7:30pm through 8:30pm. I am asking anyone who was a customer or employee at BJ's Restaurant that evening only, to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 through August 24th. This includes an elevated temperature, chills, muscle aches, runny nose, sore throat, changes in sense of taste or smell, headache, fatigue, cough, wheezing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chest tightness, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain or diarrhea. If you were at BJs Restaurant Friday evening, the 14th from 7:30pm to closing time of Friday evening, the 14th, and have any of the above symptoms, you are asked to contact your health care provider to arrange to be tested as soon as possible. You should immediately quarantine yourself which means stay at home-do no go to work or school or shopping. You can go out for medical appointments, but nothing else until your test results come back. I am asking that you NOT call the health department with questions about this unless you were in the restaurant during that specific time period.

The restaurant has been notified and will be increasing their cleaning and sanitation. I have also recommended again, the consistent use of masks by at least the employees. I would certainly encourage masks for customers as I do for ALL businesses, in addition to the 6 foot social distancing guide and increased disinfection.

I will be reviewing the current advisory guidelines which are in effect through September 1st to determine the need for changes as we continue to see what occurs in the county with COVID. A lot can change these next few weeks especially with back to school. Most of the contact work that we have been doing in relation to the cases have been in people in their early to late 20s as of late. As this group is generally more sociable, we are seeing more contacts per case including young children in the household. Please be careful around anyone who

is not in your immediate household. Do your part for everyone so that we can all stay safe. In between case and contact investigation, I am working on a list of responsibilities for both the health department staff and our cases/contacts and anyone who has been tested and for the general public that I will share once I have it completed. I am also working on a list of the flu clinics for this fall. I will get that out as soon as I have it completed. We will be doing the clinics differently to minimize not only our potential exposure to COVID, but to minimize the public's exposure also. I ask that if you have comments or questions, that they be directed to our general email address of osagecountyhealthdepartment@gmail.com. We will do our best to get back to you as fast as we can if you need a response. Thank you for your time.