ADAIR COUNTY CASES CONTINUE TO RISE

Kirksville, MO 6/12/2020 – The number of COVID-19 cases among Adair County residents continue to rise. One week ago, the Adair County Health Department reported 72 cases year to date. One week later, the total case count stands at 84. Five new cases were reported on Monday. Since then, the Health Department has been notified of seven additional cases. Four of those cases are related to area meat-processing plants. Three, involving a 19-year-old male, a 19-year-old female, and a 71-year-old female, resulted from community spread. “Community spread” means how those individuals were infected with the virus is undetermined.

“Although the Governor has decided to ease restrictions throughout the State as of next Tuesday, Adair County continues to see an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases,” said Jim LeBaron, administrator of the Adair County Health Department. “Despite easing of restrictions, people need to continue taking precautions of washing their hands, maintaining social distancing and wearing masks in public when distancing is difficult,” LeBaron said.

LeBaron said the continued spread in Adair County isn’t just a problem for residents who work in area meat-processing plants. The community spread indicates the virus is circulating outside of those plants and infecting people randomly.

“People need to continue to be cautious,” LeBaron said. “Despite the reopening of the economy, nothing has changed since we all were ordered to shelter in place. There is still no proven treatment and still no vaccine and until there is, it’s the responsibility of every single person to take steps to protect themselves and others from spreading the virus,” he said. “This virus doesn’t care about the economy. It’s up to each of us to protect the most vulnerable people around us.”

As of today, 21 Adair County residents are in isolation and 63 have left isolation after testing positive for the virus.

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