

SEVEN NEW CASES OF COVID-19 CONFIRMED IN ADAIR COUNTY

Kirksville, MO 8/6/2020 – With seven new cases of COVID-19 confirmed today among Adair County residents, the year-to-date total has risen to 146. The number of people now in isolation has risen to 19.

Of the seven new cases, one is a 24-year-old female infected by community spread. The other six are all employees of area meat-packing plants. They include a 49-year-old female and men ages 47, 36, 33, 41, and 37.

Statewide, 1,241 new cases were confirmed in the last 24-hour period. Although the majority of cases in Missouri year-to-date have been in the state's most populated cities and towns, there have been recent signs of more rapid growth in rural areas of the state. Knox County, for example, spiked from seven cases year-to-date to 24 in just the past seven days, an increase of 17 cases.

“We’re starting to witness more creep into rural areas of the state,” said Jim LeBaron, administrator of the Adair County Health Department. “This is inevitable since people have been returning to more routine activities and traveling. Again, that’s why we’re urging people to stay vigilant by wearing masks, socially distancing, washing hands or using hand sanitizer, avoiding large groups of people, opting for outdoor rather than indoor activities outside of their homes, and whatever they do, staying at home if they don’t feel well,” he said.

“The fact is that now is the most critical time for us to take precautions because this is the most difficult time to control the spread,” LeBaron said. “Truman students are returning from areas that are hotspots, kids are getting ready to go back to school, people are taking summer vacations, and nearly all businesses are fully reopened. We’ve never been more exposed to COVID-19 than we are right now,” he said. “We also need to remember that Kirksville is a regional retail, healthcare, and education hub,” LeBaron said. “That means we’re watching what’s happening in surrounding counties because those residents are coming in and out of Adair County,” he said.

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