

COVID-19: Notice to Edgar County

Dear Neighbor,

Coronavirus, or COVID-19, has become a household word. Since its arrival in the United States in early 2020, we have been overwhelmed with information. Regarding coronavirus response in Edgar County, our situation evolves hourly.

Our local response efforts are based on a number of indicators that are specific to our county, our community, and our hospital. These efforts are being managed through a joint effort of the Edgar County Public Health Department (ECPHD), ESDA, and Horizon Health. We have emergency preparedness plans that we are referencing and action plans that detail our response for each phase of a public health threat or emergency. All these initiatives are directed by recommendations from the CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

The ECPHD is responsible for minimizing public health threats to our community ongoingly. This is done by providing guidance and directives as dictated by IDPH and the Governor to businesses, employers, food establishments, healthcare facilities, church groups, and residents. During this pandemic, ECPHD tracks all COVID-19 tests performed for Edgar County residents. Tracking includes Edgar County residents who present to any healthcare facility with symptoms meeting the criteria for testing, as provided by IDPH. Upon notification that an Edgar County resident has been tested, ECPHD has specific protocols in place for contacting the person's close contacts and determining the risk the sick person posed to the community. In the event the Health Department is notified of a positive case, staff will alert Horizon Health, ESDA, and the residents of Edgar County immediately.

Edgar County ESDA is in constant communication with state and federal disaster relief efforts. They are key in finding and managing crucial supplies and equipment. They also help manage communication related to the COVID-19 pandemic. All Edgar County residents should ensure they are enrolled in the WENS emergency notification system. To enroll, visit EdgarCountyIllinois.com.

Horizon Health is holding the front line as your local healthcare leader. Numerous operational changes have been made, including screening prior to building entry, development of a Respiratory Care Clinic, telehealth availability, and—most recently—development of a COVID-19 unit. We understand that your access to healthcare is imperative. If you have any healthcare need, contact your primary care provider. If you feel you may be exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, visit MyHorizonHealth.org/coronavirus and complete our online risk assessment. Results are forwarded to a provider who will follow up with you via phone.

As we move forward together through these uncertain times, please continue social distancing, please quarantine when you're not feeling well, and please stay respectful and kind to one another.

Thank you for supporting our organizations, our community, and each other.



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