

Cerro Gordo County Joint Information Center

COVID-19



MEDIA RELEASE

(Mason City) – Thursday, May 21st, 2020

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COVID-19 Joint Information Center Update

Data Snapshot

- 15,954 total lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Iowa (05/21/2020).
 - 19 total lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Cerro Gordo (05/21/2020).
- 403 deaths in Iowa
 - 0 deaths in Cerro Gordo
- 2,925 COVID-19 tests administered at the mobile testing unit (05/20/2020).

A status report of monitoring and testing of COVID-19 in Iowa, including county-level data, provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health can be found at <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/#CurrentStatus>.

Gov. Reynolds Announces Change in Testing Criteria Allowing Anyone to Get Tested

At today's press conference, Gov. Kim Reynolds stated that she is expanding the testing criteria for the TestIowa Initiative to allow anyone who is interested in being tested can schedule an appointment through the TestIowa site after taking the assessment. Reynolds mentioned the update will be updated later this afternoon. For the TestIowa initiative consider including there is no testing site in the area so travel may be needed. If you are interested in being tested, please visit <https://www.testiowa.com/en> to take the assessment.

Message from MercyOne on the Pediatric Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (PMIS)

Recently, Iowa joined 19 states which are reporting at least one case of a new pediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome (PMIS). This rare condition is also known as multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). Once PMIS is detected, the child should begin receiving care. Fortunately, some characteristics of PMIS are similar to other treatable inflammatory diseases. Meanwhile, researchers are looking for possible connections to the COVID-19 virus.

"The providers feel that it is important for infants, children and adolescents to be seen when they become ill, and not delay care. This has become increasingly important in light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Infants and small children are unable to verbalize their symptoms, and should be checked when they are ill to identify other reasons for illness such as fever, ear infection, pharyngitis, cough, etc. We have completely separated our sick and well patients so that we can provide care without undue risk to others. Delay in being seen can increase a patient's risk for more serious infections and possible hospitalizations. We have not seen as of yet, any cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children; but please know that we are keeping up-to-date on the information being presented and we are prepared to provide care if the situation arises." - Diane Julius, PA-c at MercyOne Mason City Pediatric & Adolescent Care

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Considerations and Guiding Principles for Bars and Restaurants

As restaurants and bars resume operations in some areas in Cerro Gordo County, the Centers of Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) offers the following considerations for ways in which operators can protect employees, customers, and communities and slow the spread of COVID-19.

The more an individual interacts with others, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. The risk of COVID-19 spread increases in a restaurant or bar setting as follows:

- Lowest Risk: Food service limited to drive-through, delivery, take-out, and curbside pick up.
- More Risk: Drive-through, delivery, take-out, and curbside pick up emphasized. On-site dining limited to outdoor seating. Seating capacity reduced to allow tables to be spaced at least 6 feet apart.
- Even More Risk: On-site dining with both indoor and outdoor seating. Seating capacity reduced to allow tables to be spaced at least 6 feet apart.
- Highest Risk: On-site dining with both indoor and outdoor seating. Seating capacity not reduced and tables not spaced at least 6 feet apart.

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Current evidence suggests that novel coronavirus may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as handwashing, staying home when sick) and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles to protect yourself and others from contracting the virus. Fortunately, there are several actions operators of restaurants and bars can take to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread.

For full detail of the actions restaurant and bar operators can adopt, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/business-employers/bars-restaurants.html>. The CDC also created a tool, a decision tree, to help businesses make informed decisions about reopening. To view this tool, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/restaurants-and-bars-decision-tree.pdf>.

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