



## JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD

330 North Bench Street  
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March 24, 2020

In a short period of time novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has spread rapidly throughout the United States and Illinois, necessitating updated and more stringent guidance from federal, state, and local public health officials.

On March 9<sup>th</sup> Illinois Governor JB Pritzker declared all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area (Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation), in response to the outbreak of COVID-19. This disaster proclamation will assist and support local governments in preparation for any action that may be necessary related to the potential impact of COVID-19 in the State of Illinois.

Jo Daviess County Government has been preparing for COVID-19 since the virus became an emerging health threat to our county. Information was presented to County officials and First Responders at a meeting held jointly with the Jo Daviess County Health Department and Midwest Medical Center on February 27<sup>th</sup> in Galena. The County is working to ensure that Law Enforcement Services and Emergency Services have the tools they need to respond to COVID-19.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> with approval of the Jo Daviess County Board, I signed a proclamation declaring Jo Daviess County a disaster area for coronavirus response. This proclamation will assist Jo Daviess County, by and through its Health Department and Emergency Management Agency to coordinate county and municipal resources and response activities and suspend certain provisions, and procedures for the conduct of county business in an effort to protect the health and safety of persons, and provide emergency assistance pursuant to Illinois law.

To insure that we are prepared we have implemented our Emergency Operations Plan and activated our Emergency Operations Center. The Jo Daviess County Health Department, the Jo Daviess County Emergency Management Agency, and the Jo Daviess County Sheriff's Office have diligently been working with the Illinois Department of Public Health, local health care providers, IEMA and FEMA, and local and State EMS and Law Enforcement agencies.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Governor Pritzker instituted a "shelter in place" order for Illinois residents which began on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> and continuing through Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. It is important that residents take this Order seriously and do everything they can to protect themselves, their family and their community from COVID-19 during this time.

Under the order, "non-essential" business and operations must cease. Grocery stores, food delivery services, pharmacies and healthcare facilities are among those businesses that will remain open. Essential local government services will not cease. Residents can still venture outdoors for a walk while practicing social distancing.

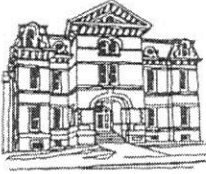
The County is doing everything within its power to protect the citizens of Jo Daviess County. The entire focus of County Government right now is directed at supporting the Health Department, Sheriff's Office,

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**Scott Toot**  
County Board Chair

**Steve Allendorf**  
Vice-Chair

**Dan Reimer**  
County Administrator



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First Responders and Emergency Management. These are uncertain times, but rest assured that County Government is working for you at this time of crisis and your safety is the sole focus of all of us.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Jo Daviess County identified its first positive case of COVID-19. The individual is an adult in their 70s. Our health department is working closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and continues to monitor the individual and their close contacts. Further details about the individual will not be released to protect the privacy of the individual and their family.

While the investigation is ongoing, we believe that this case is related to travel and was not acquired in Jo Daviess County. Even so, the public must remember the importance of actions they can take to protect themselves and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Today, March 24<sup>th</sup>, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced 250 new cases of COVID-19 in Illinois, bringing the total number of cases to 1,535 in 32 Illinois counties. There have been 16 deaths in Illinois. The age of cases ranges from younger than one to 99 years.

#### What the Public Can Do:

- **STAY CALM:** You are not alone in this; your community is here to support you. Talk to your friends and family and let them know if you are having concerns.
- **STAY APART:** Please remember social distancing. Keep at least 6 feet away from others.
- **STAY PUT:** Stay home, only go out when essential (buying groceries, pickup up medicine, etc.)

Be mindful of those who are at greater risk for contracting this virus, including older adults and those with underlying health conditions.

#### *Call your healthcare provider:*

If you experience fever, cough, and shortness of breath (flu like symptoms), stay home and call your healthcare provider before going to a healthcare facility. Inform them of your symptoms.

#### **For more information:**

Go to IDPH and Jo Daviess County websites.

- <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>
- <https://www.jodaviess.org>

For general questions about COVID-19, call the IDPH hotline at 1-800-889-3931.

We will all get through this by working together as the citizens of Jo Daviess County.

Thank you for your consideration and Stay Safe.

Scott Toot  
Jo Daviess County Board Chairman

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