

COVID update from MCHC

The Miller County Health Center continues to get new cases of COVID-19 reported for Miller County.

In a news release, the MCMH noted that as of Friday, July 17, the MCHC had a total of 43 cases, of which 13 were active. The number of cases has more than doubled since the Fourth of July. Day. One case was still hospitalized July 17. The majority of the recent cases are employees of restaurants, bars, marinas and salons throughout the county. The surge of cases is not localized to lakeside businesses, the Health Center said. The Miller County Health Center strongly encourages businesses to adopt policies requiring the use of masks by their staff. Especially those employees who cannot distance themselves from co-workers and customers such as employees at restaurants, bars, gas docks and salons. The policy may include a need for a physician's note from staff with medical reasons where a mask is more harmful to their health.

Salons are encouraged to also require their customers to wear masks, but also be flexible with those with a medical reason to not wear one.

This is not a mandated mask ordinance, only a recommendation.

Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 is directed to isolate in their home and not go to work, school, or anywhere in public. The Miller County Health Center investigates either personally or partners with a business's management to notify all close contacts to quarantine, monitor for fever and respiratory symptoms, and discuss testing options.

"It remains important that each and every one of us continues to practice preventative measures to help keep the spread of communicable diseases to a minimum, Herbert said in the release.

These measures include social distancing, proper use of masks, proper handwashing, no touching of the face, cleaning frequently used surfaces, and avoid sick people, or if sick yourself, stay home and call your health care provider. This includes fever of 100.4 or greater, any symptoms that are similar to a cold or flu, diarrhea, and a loss of sense of taste or smell, no matter how mild the symptom.

The Miller County Health Center has taken and will continue to take the necessary precautions to keep the Miller County community safe. The MCHC will continue to diligently monitor for COVID-19 cases and perform contact tracing.

If anyone suspects that they have COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19, they are encouraged to call their healthcare provider before seeking care or call the toll-free hotline at 877-435-8411.

Every healthcare provider offers the COVID-19 test, including Lake Regional, Capital Region, SSM, Boone Hospital, and Central Ozarks Medical Center clinics throughout the county. Currently, Central Ozarks Medical Center is offering free drive-through community testing without the need for a doctor's order or symptoms.

We will continue to update our website's dashboard with the number of reported



cases, number of active cases, and basic demographics at millercountyhealth.com. We will not issue a press release for every newly reported case.

For the most up to date information, "like" the MCHC Facebook page.