



Monroe County Health Department

Monroe County, Indiana

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HEALTH OFFICER ISSUES PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS WITH STAY-AT-HOME ORDER IN EFFECT UNTIL MAY 15TH

BLOOMINGTON: Monroe County remains under the Stay-At-Home order until May 15th under the health order issued Friday by the Monroe County Health Officer, Dr. Thomas Sharp and the Monroe County Health Department. The order was issued after health officials determined the county was not ready to move into Phase 2 of the Governor's Back on Track plan.

Health Department administrator, Penny Caudill states "What this means is that we will be maintaining the status quo. Only the businesses that have been open can remain open and they must follow the same guidelines under which they have been operating. In-house dining remains restricted and limited to carry-out or delivery. Businesses using curb-side service should continue to do so."

Public gatherings of people remain limited to no more than 10 people and social gatherings outside the home are prohibited.

The health officer and health department followed guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and worked closely with local government officials and health leaders in determining the need to maintain the Stay-At-Home order to best protect the community. "We understand that this is difficult for many but we did not meet the criteria outlined by the CDC to reopen safely," stated Caudill.

More testing and contact tracing will be available to the county within the next two weeks. Caudill states this will position the county to better recognize and respond quickly to a surge in disease transmission.

As stressful as this time may be, the health department recognizes that leases are ending and it is "move out" time for many residents. The health department has these recommendations for all involved:

- Call first and make an appointment and discuss social distancing procedures
- Consider doing the move-out inspection by video if possible



- Make sure neither party is ill before meeting
- Use hand sanitizer before and after entering the apartment
- Limit the number of people during the inspection and maintain social distance

Landlords should have staff follow similar procedures during maintenance calls and should only enter the apartment if it is necessary to fix a problem.

Additionally, for anyone in public who can't socially distance, a face covering should be worn with rare exceptions. As more people do venture out and the state and local communities become more active, our chances of exposure will increase as long as the virus is circulating. Wearing a face covering correctly, along with social distancing and hand washing, is an important step in protecting those around you.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, face coverings can help slow the spread of the disease and help prevent people who have the disease but don't know it from transmitting it to others. Face coverings are not recommended for children under age 2, those who have difficulty breathing or who can't remove the covering by themselves.

For more information, visit the Monroe County Health Department webpage at www.co.monroe.in.us/HealthDepartment.

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