FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
May 28, 2020

TWO NEW COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES FROM BI-COUNTY HEALTH

FRANKLIN & WILLIAMSON COUNTY, IL: Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department has been notified of two new positive COVID-19 cases within Franklin and Williamson county.

The two new cases of COVID-19 include the following:

Williamson County:
- Females: One in their teens, and one in their 70’s

These individuals are believed to have acquired the disease through either local contact with known cases or through transmission in the community (i.e. unable to trace back to a known source). Both are being placed in isolation.

To date, there have been a total of 60* laboratory confirmed positives in Williamson county and 12* laboratory confirmed positives in Franklin county of COVID-19. Of these positive cases, 45 have recovered in Williamson county and 11 have recovered in Franklin county.

Public health officials are investigating these cases, speaking with the positive individuals about who they may have encountered before being diagnosed. As is protocol, public health officials may place other individuals on home quarantine if they are determined to have had significant exposure. Such individuals may not be symptomatic, but are quarantined for a period of time which allows symptoms to develop and pass, without posing risk to others. If you are contacted by public health officials, please respond promptly.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Illinois has risen dramatically over the past week. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), as of May 28, 2020 there are 1,527 new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Illinois, including 104 additional deaths.

The number of cases can be reduced by adhering to public health guidance on social distancing, washing hands frequently, disinfecting commonly touched surfaces, staying home when you are ill and using cloth face coverings.
COVID-19 shares many symptoms with more common respiratory diseases. If you have a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for further guidance. In addition, several COVID-19 hotlines/testing sites have been established:

- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)- (Hotline only)
  - 1-800-889-3931
  - DPH.SICK.ILLINOIS.GOV
- Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH)- (Hotline for testing)
  - 1-844-988-7800
- Franklin Hospital - (Hotline for testing)
  - (618) 435-9700
- Heartland Regional Medical Center- (Hotline for testing)
  - 1-888-543-2786
- Shawnee Health Service- (Testing sites)
  - Carterville, Carbondale and Marion locations
  - Call Main number
- Christopher Rural Health Planning Corporation- (Testing Site)
  - 1-800-408-7351
- SSM Health- (Virtual visit)
  - www.ssmhealth.com/COVID19

The public is asked to follow and share trusted sources of information on COVID-19. Follow the CDC, IDPH, FWBCHD websites and social media accounts for such trusted information. Public health officials will not be releasing more specific details about these individuals due to privacy issues.

* Numbers are subject to change without notice

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