



Barry County, Missouri

Health Department and Office of Emergency Management

Joint Press Release – 06.25.2020 1200 hrs.



COVID-19 positive employees at local congregate living facility

The Barry County Health Department is reporting that two employees of Bentonview Park Health and Rehabilitation in Monett have tested positive for COVID-19. The cases are a result of community spread. The individuals are under an isolation order and are recovering at home after last working on June 19 and 20.

Infections connected with congregate living facilities, are particularly concerning as residents who are greater than 65 years of age, who are immunocompromised or have chronic medical conditions, are at the greatest risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Roger Brock, Administrator of the Barry County Health Department announced, "Bentonview Park management made the immediate decision to test all residents and employees. We are coordinating closely with their team to ensure the safety of patients, staff, and our community."

"The health and safety of our residents and staff continue to be our highest priority," says Craig Workman, spokesman for Bentonview Park Health & Rehabilitation Centre. "In early March we began screening all residents daily and all employees upon arrival at work for symptoms of COVID-19. Residents who showed signs of a fever, cough or other symptoms were tested. Any employees showing symptoms were sent home and referred to their primary care provider. We eliminated all outside visitors and non-essential interactions with the public at that time. We also stopped all group activities and closed our dining rooms to meet social distancing guidelines. Residents are encouraged to remain in their rooms and are now being screened at least twice daily for symptoms."

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath or at least two of the following, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell." Symptoms may begin two days to two weeks after exposure. Your physician can order testing or you can call the Barry County Health Department at 417-847-2114 to discuss testing.

Community-wide COVID-19 testing is available free on June 29 in Cassville, register online at <https://health.mo.gov/communitytest> or by calling the Missouri DHSS COVID-19 24 hour Hotline at 877-435-8411.

State of Missouri and Barry County Phase 2 Reopening began June 16 and remains in effect until June 30, 2020. Those rules include recommendations to maintain physical distancing, required source control masking in certain circumstances, and enhanced hygiene practices. Additional resources can be found at www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

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PRESS CONTACTS

David Compton, Director
Barry County Office of Emergency Management
417-737-1142

Roger Brock, Administrator
Barry County Health Department
417-847-2114

Craig Workman, Spokesman
Bentonview Park Health and Rehabilitation
Craig@Workman-Company.com
314-640-9033