



Barry County, Missouri

Health Department and Office of Emergency Management

Joint Press Release – 05.06.2020 0900 hrs.



COVID-19 Test Results

In our most recent Joint Situational Update Barry County Officials announced a seventh case of COVID-19. This particular case was the result of a serological test, commonly called an antibody test. While the positive antibody test result is included in our total number of COVID-19 cases, it does not represent an active COVID-19 case.

Currently, there are 2 types of testing being done for COVID-19. The first and most familiar is the viral test. This test uses swabs from your respiratory system, typically your nose, to determine if you have a current infection of COVID-19. The sample is analyzed for the presence of either COVID-19 viral RNA or proteins. Which are present in persons with an active infection. These patients are placed in Isolation and all close contacts are notified and placed in quarantine by order of the Health Department.

The second type of testing is typically referred to as the antibody test. In this test a blood sample is taken from the patient and analyzed in a laboratory for the presence of specific proteins (antibodies) created by the body's immune system. Antibody tests alone are not used to diagnose someone with an active COVID-19 infection, since it typically takes 1 to 3 weeks or longer after being infected for the immune system to make antibodies. This test is used to determine if someone previously had COVID-19. A patient with a positive antibody test alone does not need to be isolated, as they typically have recovered from the virus and are no longer contagious.

Barry County Health Department Administrator Roger Brock said, "we have reviewed the details of the positive serological test and determined the person traveled internationally more than 30 days ago and that is the likely source of the previous COVID-19 infection." The person and their close contacts have not had symptoms of COVID-19 and do not require isolation or quarantine.

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