



Barry County, Missouri

Health Department and Office of Emergency Management

Joint Press Release – 06.10.2020 1100 hrs.



Two cases of COVID-19 identified at local processing plant

The Barry County Health Department is reporting that two individuals who are or have recently been employees of the Georges Processing plant in Butterfield have tested positive for COVID-19. The persons are not Barry County residents; however, the cases are believed to be the result of community spread in a neighboring county. The individuals are under an isolation order and close contacts with the individuals are being contacted and if appropriate ordered to quarantine. Those contacts and any additional cases will be monitored daily by the Health Department in the County of residence.

Roger Brock, Administrator of the Barry County Health Department is working closely with the State Department of Health and Senior Services to determine if additional efforts are necessary. Brock said, “as soon as we know of any additional actions that may be needed and the details of those actions we will release that information to the public.” Our decisions will be based on the quickest and most efficient way to ensure the safety of our residents.

Barry County Office of Emergency Management Director David Compton states, “We are working closely with the Barry County Health Department and George’s Processing to monitor the situation and assist in efforts to mitigate this situation.”

George’s implemented extensive efforts at the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic to avoid infection and prevent spread if an infection occurred. Those measures, which continue to be in effect, include enhanced entry screening, required face coverings, physical distancing, physical barriers in area of limited distancing, frequent daily enhanced cleaning of commons spaces, as well as an enhanced daily deep cleaning of the facility. Additionally, staff who may be ill are instructed to remain home and consult a physician. The plant has provided access to virtual visits and additional paid time off to ensure people do not work when ill. Roger Brock and David Compton noted that the efforts of the company to manage a large essential workforce in face of a pandemic has been exceptional, “their efforts have and continue to be focused on protecting their employees, families, partners, and our community.”

Barry County Officials remind residents the best way to prevent community spread COVID-19 is to wear a cloth face covering, maintain a physical distance of 6’, avoid groups of greater than 10 people, and wash hands often. If you have, symptoms call your medical provider to discuss the need for testing or you can call the Barry County Health Department at 417-847-2114 to discuss the availability of rapid testing.

State of Missouri Emergency and Barry County Phase 1 Extension rules remain in effect until June 15, 2020.

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