

March 20, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christian County only has 1 confirmed case of COVID-19

Ozark, MO – The Missouri Department of Health has reported to the Christian County Health Department that as of 5:30pm on Friday March 20th, only one (1) Christian County resident has tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. Previous reports of their being two (2) COVID-19 cases in Christian County were inaccurate.

On Wednesday March 18th, the Christian County Health Department reported to the news media that there were two (2) positive tests in Christian County after learning of the results from the Missouri Department of Health. On the evening of Thursday March 19th, the Christian County Health Department was informed that the second case (in which the patient had visited James River Church South Campus, in Ozark on March 8th) was not, in fact, attributable to Christian County, as the person who tested positive is indeed a resident of Greene County.

The Christian County Health Department is reporting that as of 5:30pm on Friday March 20th, 7 Christian County residents have now tested negative for COVID-19.

The Christian County Health Department has been notified that tests for 23 other Christian County residents are still being processed by various testing labs. However, those who call the state hotline and are referred directly to a lab for testing may not be included in that number. So far, none of those results have been reported to the Christian County Health Department.

Tests processed by private labs have been taking approximately 4-6 days to return results. Tests processed by the state lab have generally returned results within 24 hours.

Christian County Health Department Administrator Cindy Bilyeu says, “This is a serious situation, but we are monitoring each tested person and their contacts closely. We are contacting those who need to be quarantined out of an abundance of caution. Currently, about 40 Christian County residents have been instructed to remain in quarantine. The main message we are trying to get out right now is if you have been sent home, stay home.”

The Christian County Health Department strongly recommends:

- No gatherings of 10 or more people.
- Stay informed with information from the CDC.
- Practice social distancing.
- Wash your hands and practice good hand hygiene.

If you are sick, call your physician. If you don't have a physician, call the state hotline: 877-435-8411

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Media Contact:

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