



MEDIA RELEASE – PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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St. Clair County Health Department Issuing Public Health Advisory Prioritization Shifting as Cases Reach Highest Levels

Over the past few weeks, high numbers of new positive cases have been reported to the St. Clair County Health Department. Cases being identified all have numerous close contacts making contact tracing efforts impossible to maintain. Even with assistance from partner organizations, capacity has been reached. Individuals and their close contacts may not receive a phone call from St. Clair County Health Department.

Effective immediately, St. Clair County Health Department has made the decision, based on the overwhelming number of St. Clair County cases, to pivot and focus our efforts on:

- Probable and confirmed case workup in people 18 years of age and younger
- Contact tracing in long term care facilities (LTCs), hospitals, and schools as well as clusters identified as a priority by SCCHD Administration such as high risk congregate settings.
- Assisting businesses with COVID related issues

Individuals notified they are positive need to follow these guidelines:

- [Isolate](#) for 10 days; if symptoms improve and you are fever free without the use of medications, it is ok to return to normal activities.
- Notify all of your close contacts
- Close contacts need to [self-quarantine](#) for 14 days from their last contact to you while you were considered contagious and monitor for symptoms.
- If symptoms arise, get tested.

Dr. Annette Mercatante, Medical Health Officer, St. Clair County Health Department stated; “MDHHS guidance has not changed. Masking is [required](#) in public places; social distancing is absolutely necessary; personal hygiene is important. Stay home if you are sick. Stay away from social gatherings, large or small if it is not your immediate family, and masking and social distancing is not occurring.”

Dr. Mercatante continued “We want to empower everyone to be smart and take care of yourselves and your family. We can get through this, we will get through this. Now is the time that personal responsibility is key. Be smart. Stay safe and vigilant.”

General questions can be directed to the St. Clair County COVID-19 informational hotline line (810) 966-4163, email covid19@stclaircounty.org or visit the health department website at www.scchealth.co or social media @scchdmi.

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**St. Clair County Emergency Operations Center & Joint Information Center
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