



PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

DATE: MARCH 26, 2021

TIME: 4:45PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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St. Clair County Health Department Issues Public Health Alert High COVID-19 Community Transmission; Remote Working Encouraged

St. Clair County is experiencing a rapid and concerning acceleration of COVID-19 positive cases. Since Saturday, March 20th there have been 1,080 new cases which represent a positivity rate of 20.2%. This increase signals community spread and the recommendation that every business/agency allow employees to work remotely from home, if at all possible.

Establishments that require an in-person workforce should strictly maintain mitigation strategies, which include:

- **Pre-Screening:** Employers should measure employees temperature and assess symptoms prior to them starting work.
- **Wearing a Mask:** All employees should wear a face mask at all times while in the workplace.
- **Social Distancing:** Employees should maintain 6 feet physical distancing as work duties permit. When taking breaks together, employees should continue physical distancing. Consider staggering breaks and dissuade staff from congregating in the break room and sharing food or utensils.
- **Disinfect and Clean Workspaces:** Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment routinely.
- **Virtual Trainings:** Conduct regularly scheduled trainings virtually versus in-person when applicable.
- **Cohort Employees:** Staff should work with a single cohort (group) if possible to limit potential exposures.
- **Send Sick Employees Home Immediately:** Sick employees should be tested for COVID-19 before returning and follow appropriate isolation or quarantine guidelines.

“Given the significant increase in cases, we must double down on our mitigation efforts”, said Dr. Annette Mercatante, Medical Health Officer of the St. Clair County Health Department. “We know of at least one variant strain circulating in our community, making the virus more transmittable from person to person. Now is not the time to let our guard down as we are creating a path forward with vaccinations.”

This is a rapidly evolving situation. Email questions regarding COVID-19 to covid19@stclaircounty.org or call the informational hotline (810) 966-4163. Visit the website www.scchealth.co and follow us on social media @scchdmi.

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