**Calhoun County Health Department**

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Dear Calhoun County Residents,

More than likely, you’re feeling anxious right now. It’s easy to understand why, since there is still so much uncertainty and misinformation about COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by a new virus called SARS-CoV-2. The most common symptoms of the disease are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Most people with COVID-19 will have mild symptoms, but some people will get sicker and may need to be hospitalized.

Public Health prepares for and responds to emergencies like COVID-19. In conjunction with the CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health, Calhoun County Health Department has been working on this since early January. The Health Department has a Pandemic Plan in place, which has been exercised and we are prepared to implement this plan if/when needed. Currently, our role is to monitor and incorporate continuously changing guidance for the public, provide public health recommendations to healthcare providers, schools, businesses and residents, and identify, advise and monitor individuals with potential exposure to COVID-19.

Amidst all the stress, it’s understandable and appropriate that people are asking questions. We have received many questions and unfortunately, the answers to questions will be changing hour-to-hour based on developments. For the latest information and commonly asked questions, we strongly encourage everyone to visit <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>. Alternatively, community members can call the IDPH COVID-19 Hotline at 800-889-3931.

Please see below attachments from IDPH for more information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Calhoun County Health Department.

Sincerely,

Calhoun County Health Department