



POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 19, 2020

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK FORCE

The Pottawattamie County COVID-19 Response Task Force met Thursday March 19.

On Tuesday, March 17 Governor Reynolds declared a State of Public Health Disaster Emergency which forced many local businesses to close temporarily close their space to the public.

At this time, Iowa officials have implemented temporary measures for restaurants by limiting service to drive-through, carry-out, and delivery only. The State has also ordered the closure of bars. For those food establishments that remain open for limited service, it is recommended that establishments take the following actions:

- Closely monitor food workers for signs of illness and send ill workers home immediately. Ill food workers should stay home for seven days after they start having symptoms AND three days after fever and other symptoms stop.
- Closely monitor food employee hand washing and hygiene practices.
- Increase cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection frequencies for all areas of the establishment, especially high-contact surfaces
- Ensure disinfecting and sanitizing agents are effective for COVID-19

During this trying time, it is important for the public and private sectors to continue to coordinate with State recommendations closely to implement strategies to protect Iowans in the weeks to come.

The Council Bluffs Convention and Visitors Bureau has compiled a list of local restaurants that are open for drive-through, carry-out, and delivery. Visit www.unleashcb.com/eat for details.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and the task force recommends people stay home as often as possible, increase social distancing efforts, and practice excellent hygiene and disinfectant practices. The goal is to prevent a huge spike in the number of people getting sick simultaneously and flatten the curve of infection. The task force is working to support businesses, schools, and community organizations to implement recommended actions in ways that protect people at an increased risk of severe illness.

COVID-19 Resources:

[Pottawattamie County EMA COVID-19](#)

[Iowa Department of Public Health](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

COVID-19 Hotlines:



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Methodist Health System is offering a community hotline and screening tool at 402-815-SICK (7425).

CHI Health has a help line to answer questions and direct patients who may be at high risk of the coronavirus illness. Visit www.chihealth.com for information.

Pottawattamie County Emergency Management Agency has COVID-19 Call Center open M-F from 8am-4pm. 712-890-5368 or 712-890-5369

Hope 4 Iowa Crisis Hotline – This Crisis call line connects individuals in crisis to a helping hand the resources to address and improve mental wellness. Available 24/7. Call 84-HOPE-4-IOWA, or 844-673-4469.

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