

Cerro Gordo County Joint Information Center

COVID-19



MEDIA RELEASE

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COVID-19 Joint Information Center Update

(Mason City) – Tuesday April 14th, 2020

Data Snapshot

- 1,899 total lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Iowa (04/14/2020).
 - 14 total lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Cerro Gordo (04/13/2020).
 - Age Ranges of Lab Confirmed Cases: (18-40) = 2 cases, (41-60) = 6 cases, (61-80) = 6 cases
- 49 deaths in Iowa
 - 0 deaths in Cerro Gordo
- 909 COVID-19 tests administered at the mobile testing unit (04/13/2020).

A status report of monitoring and testing of COVID-19 in Iowa provided by IDPH can be found at

<https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/#CurrentStatus>. For Cerro Gordo County data, visit https://cghealth.com/?page_id=3754.

Press Conference Tomorrow Featuring Panelist Discussing Unemployment, Mental Health and COVID-19 Data

Tomorrow, April 15th, a Zoom press conference will begin at 3:30 pm featuring four panelists to discuss unemployment, mental health, and COVID-19 data availability for Cerro Gordo County. The first panelist, Michael Witt, is from Iowa Workforce Development. He will be discussing unemployment, providing guidance to people returning to work after being quarantined, and other job-related topics. Our second panelist from MercyOne North Iowa is clinical psychologist, Dr. Brent Seaton. Dr. Seaton will discuss anxiety during a pandemic and coping strategies for individuals experiencing stress. Our third panelist, Karen Crimmings from CG Public Health, will explain the recent release of county-level specific data on the CG Public Health website. She will be sharing how to access that data and what it means. Our final panelist is Mayor of Mason City, Bill Schickel to provide community support and provide a city update. The public can view the press conferences every Wednesday via the City of Mason City, CG Public Health and MercyOne North Iowa's Facebook pages as they go live tomorrow. Questions can be submitted in the comments section of the post.

North Iowa Community Action Organization's Home Energy Assistance Program

The Iowa Department of Human Rights' network of local community action agencies has offices in all 99 Iowa counties. The agencies administer the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to assist eligible households with a portion of their utility bill. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps individuals and families pay a portion of their winter heating costs. A one-time payment will be made to a heating or fuel company to supplement the cost of heating bills. Due to COVID-19, they are taking steps to ensure continued service to households while maintaining the health and safety of staff and customers. Therefore, the following changes have been made to the operation of the LIHEAP program effective immediately and until further notice.

- Winter moratorium has been extended to May 1, 2020 by the Iowa Utility Board.
- Winter moratorium is in effect for applicants that have applied and were approved for the LIHEAP program
- The regular LIHEAP season has been extended to May 31, 2020.
- The in-person requirement for first time applicants and household with the last name beginning with H-N, has been waived. Applications are accepted by mail, email, online, or by telephone. Please contact an Outreach office below for the application process. For more information on LIHEAP, visit <https://nicao-online.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/press-release-LIHEAP.pdf> or call your local Cerro Gordo office at 641-423-776 or 800-873-1899.

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