



Jackson County Health Department

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Creating Healthy Communities



FAQ Regarding COVID Information Posted on JCHD Webpage

Symptoms

1. I do not have any symptoms; how can I have Covid-19?

An asymptomatic carrier is someone who has contracted the virus, but who is not showing any symptoms of the disease. It is possible to not have symptoms AND be positive for Covid-19. It is also possible at the time of testing you did not have symptoms but develop them later on. The [WHO](#) reports that 80% of COVID-19 infections are asymptomatic or mild.

Asymptomatic- (of a condition or a person) producing or showing no symptoms

Symptomatic- exhibiting or involving symptoms.



2. Why don't we report "active" cases?

Covid-19 is not separated into disease classes of active or inactive (like tuberculosis). It is positive or negative. It is very possible that there are people in the community who are asymptomatic and haven't tested but still carry the virus. We report on laboratory confirmed numbers only. From the date of the report, we are following the [10-day quarantine period](#) at which time a person would be considered non-infectious.

Travel Related

3. We went on a vacation and now I am being asked to quarantine for 14 days? Why is that?

While we recognize many individuals are following the safety protocols of social distancing and wearing masks, travel may increase the length of exposure and the number of times for possible exposure. In an ideal world, all protocols would be followed completely and the risk would be minimal; but we have seen masks worn incorrectly or not at all and a lack of hand hygiene. Traveling by plane, stopping at rest areas and gas stations, visiting populated tourist areas, eating out frequently, not being able to maintain social distancing, traveling with members of other households, and/or visiting states that are considered "hot spots" can all lead to increased risk of exposure. The incubation period for this particular disease is up to 14 days. Asking that you remain in quarantine helps reduce the transmission of Covid-19 in the event you were exposed but are not showing symptoms.

Testing

4. What is the difference between serologic or antibody COVID-19 tests and diagnostic tests?

Diagnostic tests are used to find **current** infection and look for genes or proteins from COVID-19.

Diagnostic testing is generally conducted when a person has a known exposure to COVID-19 or when an individual has signs or symptoms consistent with the illness.

Two types of Diagnostic tests are available and performed as nasal swabs. They include:

- Nucleic acid amplification test/real-time polymerase chain reaction (NAAT/RT-PCR) test
- Rapid virus antigen detection point of care (POC) test.

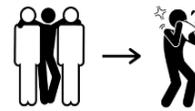
Antigen (POC) tests are faster and less expensive than PCR tests, but not quite as accurate, and results should generally be interpreted with a high index of suspicion and often a PCR test to confirm if a negative is a true negative or a false negative.

Antibody tests, or serologic tests, are often used to find antibodies to identify if an individual has come into contact with a particular virus in the past. Antibody testing is usually conducted **after** someone has recovered from COVID-19 in order to examine the type of immune cells that still exist in the individual. However, there is not enough evidence to believe that having antibodies means that you are protected from reinfection with COVID-19 at this time; ongoing studies will help determine the relevance of antibody tests in our understanding of the virus.

5. Why does someone who tests positive for COVID-19 only need to isolate for 10 days while I need to quarantine for 14 days for being in contact with someone with COVID-19?

An individual with COVID-19 is considered infectious for 10 days after symptoms begin or from a positive test result. Additionally, individuals are contagious 48 hours before symptoms begin and/or they get tested for COVID-19 and have a positive result. The individual who tests positive for COVID-19 needs to isolate from others for 10 days so that others do not come into contact with them during that infectious period. If an individual does come into contact with a contagious individual, it can take 2-14 days for them to develop enough virus in their body to begin showing symptoms and/or have a positive COVID-19 test. As an example: an individual who tests negative for COVID-19 5 days into their quarantine may become symptomatic and test positive by day 12 of their quarantine. For this reason, we do not accept negative COVID-19 tests as an indication that someone is not going to develop illness from COVID-19.

What's the difference between ISOLATION and QUARANTINE?



ISOLATION

Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.



QUARANTINE

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

Numbers / Data Reported

6. Why are numbers different from other sites?

Like photographs, numbers are just a snapshot of time. Reportable communicable disease cases are reported all day through our state system. It was decided that the [Jackson County Health Department \(JCHD\)](#) would be consistent with posting numbers every day at noon, so the cases you see are cumulative through that morning. If the hospital or the state pulls their numbers at 3pm, the numbers will be different because cases have continued to be reported. In addition, the Health Department receives testing data from both the [Center for Family Health \(CFH\)](#) and [Henry Ford Allegiance Health](#) testing sites (HFAH). HFAH only lists the data on their website for testing conducted in their facilities.

7. Why can't all the numbers be reported together?

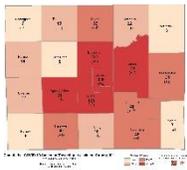
Each entity has its' own role in what is required for reporting purposes. We do not have access to the health systems (HFAH) or the incarcerated individual numbers (Michigan Dept. of Corrections-MDOC). The daily numbers the JCHD posts are Jackson residents or community members, which could include hospitalized cases but exclude all MDOC incarcerated data. The hospitalized patients and those who tested positive at the hospital are posted on the [HFAH](#) site at <https://www.henryford.com/coronavirus> and is critical to understanding where we are with flattening the curve. The MDOC data is published on the following website (Note: you have to

scroll down to the Total Confirmed Prisoner and Staff Cases to Date Section) -

<https://medium.com/@MichiganDOC/mdoc-takes-steps-to-prevent-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19-250f43144337>

8. Why isn't the map published more often than every Monday? Why is the number on the map different from the number posted for the day indicated?

When the map was first published the number of cases in the community were low enough that the pattern in each township was not changing enough to warrant the additional time needed to create the map for sharing. As numbers continue to rise at three or four a day, this area will be discussed further to determine if there is a need to publish the map more often to determine hot spots. The map will be published by 3:30 on Monday afternoons.



The GIS department staff who create the maps are dependent on street addresses in order to map cases. If someone only reports a PO Box or no address (ie homeless) their location is not able to be mapped. Efforts to obtain an actual street address are stressed but sometimes it may take a while to actually obtain the address, which may result in a map with less numbers than the cases posted.

9. Why are recovered cases only published on certain days?

The number of recovered was added to the list of numbers in May 2020 to demonstrate that we were seeing people who were able to overcome the virus and recover from the effects of the illness. Currently, recovered cases are published as they are received through the database.

Protected Health Information (PHI)

10. Why can't you tell us who has it?

PHI or Protected Health Information is something that we have a responsibility to protect. Sharing names and disease diagnoses are part of PHI. In an attempt to help the community understand the spread, we do publish a weekly map, which is a good indicator of potential "hot spots" or places where the disease is more likely to spread. It is often in places where there are a lot of people and/or at places where there is not enough space for people to socially distance.

Where can I go for help?

11. I don't know who to believe.

The Jackson County Health Department staff follow the guidelines of the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and also our local [Michigan Dept. of Health & Human Services \(MDHHS\)](#) experts and our medical director. As new information is learned about the virus, the information we share can change. We do attempt to put out the most recent guidelines and information, but because we consider this a fluid situation (or constantly in motion), these things can change daily and have been known to change hourly.

12. This pandemic has me afraid to go out and I am extremely nervous about being around other people.

You are not alone in this. Many people have experienced similar issues. This pandemic is like nothing any of us have ever experienced before and we are all feeling different emotions. It is normal for you to feel anxious, worried, stressed or depressed. There are resources and people available who can help.

- Call 211 to find resources in the local area
- The [CDC](#) recommends the following as the best safety measures to reduce your risk for exposure

- [Wear a mask](#)
- Frequently [wash your hands](#) for 20 seconds or longer or use an approved hand sanitizer if no running water and soap is available.
- Keep a distance of at least six feet from others ([social distance](#))
- If you have access to a computer or smart phone – you can use the [Headspace app](#) – which is free of charge to all Michigan residents (<https://www.headspace.com/mi>). This app is a mindfulness tool to help you process what is going on around you.
- If you have an existing mental health condition and need extra support, you can call the Certified Peer Support Specialist Warmline at 1-888-733-7753 between the hours of 10 am -2 am daily.
- Help is also available through the
 - National Disaster Distress Helpline
Call 1-800-985-5990 or
Text: TalkWithUs to 66746
 - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
Call: 1-800-273-8255
Text: TALK to 741741

