CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 5, 2020*

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Symptoms include; fever, cough, and shortness of breath. People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

* Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
* Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
* Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
* Stay home when you are sick.
* Cover your cough or sneeze
* Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

**Current Vigo County Surveillance:**

**General**

* **Total Confirmed Cases:** 0
* **Total Recovered Cases:** 0
* **Total Deaths: 0**

**Hospitals**

Regional Hospital: Starting Monday, March 9, visitors and patients will be directed to use specific entrances to allow visitors to be screened. Patients will be limited to 2 visitors at a time. If a patient is displaying symptoms such as fever or respiratory distress, measures will be taken to respond appropriately to the patient’s needs and limit exposure to other individuals at Terre Haute Regional Hospital.

Union Hospital: Starting Monday, March 9th, Union Hospital and Union Hospital Clinton will begin screening all visitors in a manner consistent with CDC recommendations. Patients will be limited to 2 designated visitors. Visitors that screen positive for the below criteria are asked to avoid Union Hospital facilities.

1. Fever or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a cough and sore throat.

2. International travel within the last 14 days to restricted countries. For updated information on restricted countries visit: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019- ncov/travelers/index.html

3. Contact with someone with known or suspected COVID-19.

Additionally, access into the facility is being evaluated and will be limited wherever possible. Union Hospital and Union Hospital Clinton continue to monitor the situation very closely and work collaboratively with local partners to keep our community safe.

**Higher Education**

Indiana State University: [www.indstate.edu/covid-19](http://www.indstate.edu/covid-19)

**VCSC**

The Vigo County School Corporation sanitizes surfaces daily during flu season. While Coronavirus is not the flu, we will continue these measures as Coronavirus continues to spread, and we will reinforce the above guidelines with our own staff.

**Government**

Vigo EMA: Vigo EMA continues to monitor current COVID 19 status and meet with Community and Response Partners. EMA will provide liaison relationship with State and Federal Agencies.

**Chamber of Commerce**