

**DEKALB COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT / DEKALB COUNTY HOMELAND SECURITY**

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**Press Release 4/14/20**

DeKalb County Residents,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and to give a heartfelt thank-you to everyone in the DeKalb County community. This community has been working together, complying with the essential travel recommendations, and supported numerous groups of people. The Coronavirus Pandemic has changed many of our lives as we used to know it. Additionally, we have had to alter our lifestyles while we combat this virus together. Now more than ever we need to continue as one community unified. We all need to continue to work together, stay strong, and help those who need it. Below is some information we would like to share:

**Testing for the Coronavirus:**

- Testing is presently being performed at Parkview DeKalb Hospital
- Testing guidelines are set by the Indiana State Department of Health
- Testing samples can only be verified by the State or select commercial laboratories
- There is still limited availability of tests so only certain people are being tested

**Treatment for the Coronavirus:**

- There is no specific medicine to prevent or treat COVID-19
- Self-treatment at home is most common, most will not need hospitalization
- If you develop a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing seek medical care but call first

**What is DeKalb County doing regarding the COVID-19 response:**

- Weekly stakeholder meetings with leaders from the local, district, and state
- Established an Emergency Operations Center for tracking, monitoring, and management
- Updating plans and contingency plans
- Education and information sharing

**What important steps you can do to prevent the spread:**

- Stay home, save lives – essential travel only
- Maintain social distancing, keep a safe distance of 6 feet or more
- Avoid close contact with people, hand shaking, and touching
- Wear face coverings such as masks, scarf, or bandannas especially in public settings
- Wash your hands often and avoid touching your face
- Cover your cough and sneeze
- Clean and disinfect frequently

In closing, we anticipate the number of positive cases to continue to rise in DeKalb County. We all need to work together to slow the spread. This truly needs to be a unified approach by all citizens of DeKalb County.

**Dr. Mark Souder, DeKalb County Health Officer**

**Cheryl Lynch, DeKalb County Health Department**

**Jason Meek, DeKalb County Homeland Security**

  
  
