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Elkhart County Health Department
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coronavirus Update from the Health Department:

The coronavirus that causes Covid-19 is new, and because of that we are still learning things about it. The Health Department would like to keep you informed of some of the latest discoveries.

1) Unfortunately it seems this virus will continue to spread and cause outbreaks in summer. We had hoped it would lose some strength in hot humid weather, but studies now show that is not going to happen. We will need to continue to be as vigilant as we have been all spring.

2) An analysis of 44 studies in the medical journal Lancet today showed that physical distancing of at least 3 feet is strongly associated with a lower risk of transmission of the coronavirus, but a distance of 6 feet is even more effective. Facemask use was also associated with a large reduction in risk of infection, more so for the N95 masks used by health care personnel, but cloth masks also showed a significant reduction in infection.

3) A study has shown 42% of people who tested positive were asymptomatic (a study in Indiana showed the number to be 45%). Asymptomatic patients tended to be younger (in the 20-40 year-old range), and female (67%). Unfortunately asymptomatic patients who tested positive also shed virus for an average of 8 days.

4) A study of 2000 patients with mild to moderate Covid-19 showed 87% showed that 87% reported loss of smell, and 56% had taste dysfunction. If you show either of these symptoms, please contact your health care provider for advice and possible testing.

The Health Department will be providing updates from studies weekly so we can keep Elkhart County current on new discoveries.
Stay well!

Lydia Mertz, MD
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Improving the Lives, Health and Environment of our Community



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.