

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **DATA TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU MUST STAY AT HOME**

Incident Command has been working hard to gather the data that we are regularly being asked to receive. As of April 1, 2020, we have received the following data for Elkhart County:

- 808 tests have been completed
- 27 of them have been positive (as of 4/2/2020) for COVID-19
- 3 confirmed deaths have occurred, we are awaiting more confirmations

Tests continue to be in short supply, regardless of what is being portrayed. All health systems and clinics are working diligently to be good stewards of the tests we have been given. This means that even if you feel you need to be tested, a health professional may not see it the same. Follow their guidance and be reassured; they have your best interests in mind.

Be a partner in OUR fight against COVID-19 and stay at home. If you must go out for food and supplies, please return home immediately. Staying at home will be especially challenging with the sun and good weather coming our way. Remember, the goal is to decrease the number of hospital beds needed at once. Everyone is trusting one another to do what is right for the greater good for Elkhart County citizens. Your willingness to follow the CDC guidelines (see below) helps to ensure you do not spread this to your family, parents, and grandparents.

The Governor would not have canceled schools for the rest of this year if it wasn't imperative to practice social distancing and remove pressure from medical care needed. Staying at home does not mean you cannot walk your dog, go for a run, or feel the sun on your face. We are asking you not to have neighborhood or gatherings outside your immediate family circles.

As we have said many times and will continue to say, the best way to protect yourself from any respiratory illness, including COVID-19 is to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60% or higher alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice social distancing (no group functions such as book clubs, meetings, and or congregations of 10 or more)
- Stay home unless you need to go somewhere.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We will continue to provide updates as changes occur. Please follow our Facebook page at Elkhart County Health Department Health Education Division [www.facebook.com/healtheducation.echd](https://www.facebook.com/healtheducation.echd), [www.elkhartcountyhealth.org](http://www.elkhartcountyhealth.org), or go to the Indiana State Department of Health's website at [www.isdh.in.gov/coronavirus](http://www.isdh.in.gov/coronavirus) for up-to-date information on COVID-19.

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