



Brian Paul-Coordinator  
Poweshiek County Emergency Management Agency  
4802 Barnes City Rd  
Montezuma, IA 50171  
(641) 623-4357  
ema@poweshiekcosherriff.com

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**For Immediate Release**

### **COVID-19**

Poweshiek County Emergency Management has been working closely with all city and county government officials, UnityPoint Grinnell Regional Medical Center, UnityPoint Grinnell Public Health, Grinnell College, Iowa Valley Community College, Grinnell-Newburg, Montezuma, BGM School Districts, nursing and assisted living facilities, First Responder agencies, and many other community partners in response to the COVID-19 event. We work in collaboration with one another by providing situational reports among these key players to provide the most current and up-to-date information regarding potential cases, operational responses, and prevention measures being taken to combat exposure and limit the potential spread of this virus.

At this time, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Poweshiek County. The 16 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Iowa are in Johnson (14), Pottawattamie (1), and Carroll (1) Counties. Locally, 3 people have been tested for COVID-19, and all 3 test results have come back negative.

While we do our part to keep our communities safe, everyone can do their part to help respond to this public health threat by practicing everyday prevention methods like frequent and thorough hand washing, coughing and sneezing into your elbow or tissue, stay home if you are ill, routinely clean frequently touched surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, and countertops with typically-used cleaners. We would like to reinforce that the overall immediate health risk to the public is low, and the individual risk is dependent on exposure, age factor, and pre-existing medical conditions. Older adults with pre-existing medical conditions are at the highest risk, while younger, healthier adults and children are at the lowest risk.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. If you develop COVID-19 symptoms, contact your healthcare provider, and tell the about your symptoms before you go to the clinic or office.

Reliable information specific to COVID-19 can be found by visiting the Iowa Department of Public Health Website at [www.idph.iowa.gov](http://www.idph.iowa.gov), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), or by calling 2-1-1 on your telephone and following the prompts.

END Statement