The Sangamon County Department of Public Health continues to work closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health and other federal, state and local partners to monitor and respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. The SCDPH has ordered that no events of at least 250 people in any one room in a facility and a requirement to cancel outdoor events greater than 500 people.

Current information suggests that person-to-person spread will continue to occur and more cases will be identified throughout the United States. SCDPH’s goal is to reduce the impact of COVID-19 in the county by minimizing transmission and developing guidance to prepare communities to respond.

Individuals and communities should familiarize themselves with recommendations to protect themselves and their communities from getting and spreading respiratory illnesses like COVID-19. See SCDPH’s COVID-19 Brief Protocol for Households.

Older people and people with severe chronic conditions should take special precautions because they are at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness. They should limit travel and should not attend large gatherings unless it is essential.

Childcare facilities, K-12 schools and colleges/universities should review their emergency operations plans, including strategies for social distancing and online learning. See SCDPH’s COVID-19 Brief Protocol for Schools K-12.

Businesses and employers should actively encourage all employees to stay home when sick, perform hand hygiene, and cover coughs and sneezes. Businesses should review operations including identification of essential business functions, teleworking and flexible sick leave policies. See SCDPH’s COVID-19 Brief Protocol for Businesses, Churches, Colleges and Community Service Establishments.

Community- and faith-based organizations should review strategies for social distancing and modifying large gatherings. Community-based organizations should take steps to protect both the clients they serve and their employees. See SCDPH’s COVID-19 Brief Protocol for Businesses, Churches, Colleges and Community Service Establishments.

If you have been in China or another affected area, have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or feel symptoms that you suspect could be COVID-19, please see SCDPH’s COVID-19 Brief Protocol for Persons Visiting the Health Clinic or Physician’s Office.

SCPH also has a Brief Protocol for First Responders.