



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

**Todd County**  
● MINNESOTA ● EST. 1855 ●

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Courthouse Annex  
212 Second Ave South  
Long Prairie, MN 56347  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

5/22/2020  
3:00pm

### CONTACT:

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Todd County Health & Human Services  
320-732-4500

## Todd County COVID-19 Update

Todd County has seen an increase in confirmed cases of COVID-19. In a continued effort to keep the county's residents safe, testing has begun within the community.

Testing has begun at Long Prairie Packing among employees of the plant. Todd County Health & Human Services is working in partnership with Lakewood Health System and Long Prairie Packing to test all employees for the SARS CoV2 virus, the virus that causes COVID-19. The purpose of the testing is to find those workers who are infectious with the virus and to isolate them by having them stay home to limit the spread of the disease in the plant and the community.

To date, 170 employees were tested Thursday, and an estimated 160 more will be tested on Friday. Employees who are tested will receive their results from Lakewood Health System within 48 hours. If their results are positive, they are required to isolate themselves until their symptoms have improved, it has been at least ten days from their first symptom, and three days without fever. For employees who test positive but have no symptoms, they are required to isolate themselves for ten days from the test date. Their household contacts are advised to self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms. Employees who test negative may continue to work, but must undergo rigorous screening at the worksite. This screening includes a temperature check and a series of questions about COVID-19 symptoms.

Plant officials have been cooperating fully with health officials on the response to cases in the plant. "The health and safety of employees is a concern for all of us," said Todd County Health & Human Services Director Jackie Och.

"Our number one priority is the safety of our employees and the community of Long Prairie. We are thankful to Lakewood Health System and Todd County Health & Human Services for their support," said Jennifer Dibbern, Public Communications of American Foods Group.

Anyone can contract this disease and pass it on to others; everybody needs to do their part to help protect others during the pandemic. For individuals who have been told by their healthcare provider that they have COVID-19, or for those who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, it is critical that they remain in isolation or quarantine as advised, which may be up to 14 days, or sometimes longer.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider and seek testing. Symptoms can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headaches, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. While many people with COVID-19 have mild illness and get better without going to a clinic or hospital, the risk of severe disease is more significant for many people as well. People at higher risk include anyone over the age of 65, those with chronic lung disease or asthma, serious heart conditions, severe obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease needing dialysis, liver disease or immunocompromised persons.



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Todd County staff continue to work with local partners and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) staff on case investigations, contact tracing, business outreach, and essential service requests for individuals in isolation or quarantine.

Information about Todd County’s COVID response and community resources can be found at:  
<https://www.co.todd.mn.us/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/>

More information on COVID-19 and recommended community mitigation strategies can be found here:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

Additional information about COVID-19 can be found on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The following COVID-19 hotlines are available to answer questions:

<b>School &amp; Child Care questions</b>	<b>Health questions</b>	<b>Housing questions</b>	<b>Discrimination helpline</b>
651-297-1304 1-800-657-3504 Weekdays: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Weekend: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	651-201-3920 1-800-657-3903 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Seven days a week	For single-family residences: 651-296-8215 For multi-family residences: 651-297-4455 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday	1-833-454-0148 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday