



# JACK D. FRANKS

## CHAIRMAN, McHENRY COUNTY BOARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 20, 2020

### **Chairman Franks, Department of Health Urge Staying at Home**

WOODSTOCK, Ill. – County Board Chairman Jack Franks and the McHenry County Department of Health are urging McHenry County residents to obey Governor JB Pritzker's stay-at-home order and to do their part to ensure that medical and other resources aren't overtaxed.

"We need all hands on deck to combat the coronavirus, but that means more than washing your hands and following Governor Pritzker's order to stay home. We have to ensure that we don't overwhelm our hospitals or prevent seniors from buying the food they need. We're all in this together," Franks, D-Marengo, said.

Public Health Administrator Melissa Adamson said working together as a community is essential during this time, including staying home when sick and modifying behaviors to protect ourselves and prevent the spread of the virus.

"You have a responsibility to keep yourself healthy as long as you can. There are ways we can protect ourselves, but it's going to take an effort by everyone. We all need to be in this together to make it work," Adamson said.

The governor's order, which takes effect at 5 p.m. Saturday and lasts through April 7, allows citizens to go to grocery stores and pharmacies, put gas in their cars, and take walks outside. You can do your part by heeding the following advice:

- Please follow the governor's order and *stay at home*. Limit your travels to absolute essentials, such as grocery shopping, and if you do, keep at least six feet from people around you.
- Use common sense and think of others. Non-essential travel, or hosting gatherings despite pleas for social distancing, will endanger you, your family, and other people.
- Call your doctor only if you are symptomatic of COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing). It is vital that we do not overwhelm our hospitals and clinics.

- Do not request or demand testing for the COVID-19 virus. Testing is being reserved for those with the highest need after consultation with your physician. The McHenry County Department of Health is NOT testing for COVID-19 at their locations.
- Please do not hoard groceries and other supplies. There are no indications that the supply chain is vulnerable. Hoarding and panic buying hurts senior citizens as well as food banks, which depend on donations from supermarkets to care for the needy.

Remember – just because you're healthy and feeling fine doesn't mean you're not vulnerable, or that you don't pose a risk to others. Everyone is responsible for helping halt the spread!

Visit the Department of Health's website at [www.mcdh.info](http://www.mcdh.info), and follow it on Facebook and Twitter, to learn more about coronavirus and how you can protect yourself, your family, and the community. The Illinois Department of Public Health also has set up a toll-free hotline at 800-889-3931 to address questions or concerns you may have.

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