

*This is a message from Benton County Public Health*

*Benton and Stearns Counties are currently seeing a large increase in the number of residents testing positive for COVID-19 (or novel Coronavirus). If you are experiencing any of these symptoms- fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell- we encourage you to contact your health care provider or call the CentraCare Connect Hotline at 320-200-3200 for screening and possible testing. The ability to do more testing and isolate sick individuals helps Public Health in efforts to contain COVID-19. If you have other questions, you can contact the Benton-Stearns COVID-19 hotline at 877-782-5683. Please continue to practice good hand hygiene, stay home if you are sick, maintain 6 feet from others while out in public, wear a mask when in public and stay away from crowds. Again, if you are experiencing symptoms, you can call the CentraCare Connect Hotline at 320-200-3200 and if you have other questions, you can call the Benton-Stearns COVID-19 hotline at 877-782-5683.*

*The link to the MN COVID response page is listed below. The response page has information about symptoms, a screening tool, and where to find a testing site.*

<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans-if-sick/index.jsp>