



For immediate release:

**RANTOUL FOODS DISPUTES VERMILLION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT JUNE 29TH STATEMENT REGARDING SOURCE OF TEMP EMPLOYEE'S COVID-19 ILLNESS.**

Recently, WCIA-TV reported that a Vermillion County resident that tested positive for COVID-19 was related to the Rantoul Foods outbreak.

This report based on the June 29<sup>th</sup> statement from Doug Toole at the Vermillion County Public Health Department stating that this infected Vermillion County resident was related to the earlier outbreak at Rantoul Foods in May 2020 is inaccurate.

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, Rantoul Foods was made aware of a person employed by their temporary employee agency who resides in Vermillion County that tested positive for COVID-19. This temp employee informed the onsite Rantoul Foods medical staff of possible COVID-19 symptoms on Friday, June 26 and was told to seek medical attention and get tested. In addition to the employee being required to remain away from work pending test results, immediate action was taken to evaluate all direct contacts that individual would have had in the workplace and to inform those employees of any possible exposure.

The University of Illinois has conducted weekly environmental sampling throughout the facility. Every sample has been negative for SARS-CoV2. Pre-employment COVID screening has been ongoing since late May, and the preventative measures implemented in April remain in place.

Prior to this, the most recent positive test of a Rantoul Foods employee was June 2<sup>nd</sup>. All employees who have tested positive are required to self-quarantine and remain off of work until they have met the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, and are cleared to return to work by the on-site Safeworks medical staff.

Based on the timing of this most recent positive test and additional epidemiological investigation, the Rantoul Foods medical director Dr. David Fletcher believes that this a case of community transmission as opposed to COVID-19 being contracted in the workplace and the June 29<sup>th</sup> statement from the Vermillion County Health Department is inaccurate.

Rantoul Foods continues its commitment to protecting its employees and the community through daily temperature and symptom screening of all employees, appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, enforced social distancing, and stringent return to work requirements for those who have tested positive for COVID-19.

This continues to be a complex and evolving issue. Rantoul Foods' Medical Director, Dr. David Fletcher who is a board-certified Public Health specialist, is monitoring the data closely and working with management to update safety protocols as new information becomes available.