Liaison Report – COVID 19 – March 20, 2020

This is an update on the activities of the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) related to the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)/COVID-19.

The Winnebago County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has continued its operation through this week with staff from the City of Rockford, Winnebago County Health Department, Rockford Public Schools, Rockford Fire Department, Department of Human Services, and others. WCHD continues to be in Incident Command to prepare and respond. This continues to be an evolving situation.

SURVEILLANCE and INFORMATION TO HEALTHCARE PROVIDER COMMUNITY

There have been three (3) cases of confirmed COVID-19 in Winnebago County. All three (3) cases appear to be community transmission not associated with travel or contact with a known case of COVID-19. There are now 585 confirmed cases in Illinois and 5 deaths associated with COVID-19.

Numerous calls have been handled to address questions regarding risk for COVID-19 and laboratory testing from healthcare providers.

WCHD held liaison calls on March 16 – March 19 with units of local government, transportation, public housing, education, emergency services, first responders, law enforcement, court system, and correctional facilities to provide updates on disease activity, key messages, and review of pandemic response planning.

Health system partners including hospitals and clinics provided 162 tests this week. Please note that this count does not include tests submitted by private providers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDPH Risk Criteria</th>
<th>Private Laboratory</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number Tested</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Daily briefings were held with the Infection Control Healthcare Provider Group.

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

The Joint Information Center (JIC) was staffed with representatives from WCHD, City of Rockford, Crusader Community Health, Rockford Public Schools, Rock Valley College, Rockford University, Rockford Area Visitors and Convention Bureau, Mercyhealth, Transform Rockford, and University of College of Medicine at Rockford, BMO Harris/Coronado Events Management.

Key Messages:

- The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) continues to work diligently to ensure that our community is ready to respond to protect the health and safety of our community.
- The public can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illness, like flu by:
- **WASHING YOUR HANDS OFTEN** with soap and warm water.
- **COVERING YOUR COUGH**, cough and sneeze into your upper sleeve or a tissue that you throw away.
- **CLEANING SURFACES OFTEN**, increase cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
- **STAYING HOME!**

- We expect that we will continue to see more cases of COVID-19. This is a quickly evolving situation.
- Persons over the age of 60 years and persons with chronic medical conditions are at greatest risk.
- All schools in Winnebago County and throughout the state are closed through April 7, 2020.
- Anyone seeking care for influenza like illness or concerns about COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider before going into care. This assists the healthcare provider team in taking the necessary precautions to prevent the transmission.
- Under the Executive Order issued by the Governor, the general public is directed **Stay Home** to decrease the risk of exposure.
- If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19, call the Illinois Department of Public Health hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email **DPH.SICK@Illinois.gov**.

**Materials Developed and/or Shared:**
- Governor’s Office
  - Executive Order No. 10

**INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC**

The general public with questions regarding COVID-19 should be referred to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email **DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV**. This ensures consistent responses across the state.

For Winnebago specific questions, the public can be referred to the hotline 815-319-6705, Monday – Friday; 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. They can also email **COVID-19@wchd.org**.

Please share this information within your organization as needed.