Liaison Report – COVID 19 – March 13, 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) was activated March 12, 2020 at 1:00 pm with staff from the City of Rockford, Winnebago County Health Department, Rockford Public Schools, and Department of Human Services. 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 NO CASES confirmed in Winnebago County and there has been 42 new cases identified in the state of Illinois since March 6, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 in Illinois Test Results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive (confirmed)</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>316</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pending Results</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total PUI in State of Illinois</strong></td>
<td><strong>444</strong></td>
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There have been 11 specimens submitted with WCHD Authorization; 5 are pending results. Healthcare providers have started to submit specimens through private contract labs such as Quest and LabCorp. These numbers are not available.

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 9, 11, 12, and 13 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. These calls were initiated to help review and prepare Winnebago County for community transmission (spread of the virus without a known risk factor of relevant travel history or exposure to another known patient with COVID-19).

Health system partners geared up to provide sentinel surveillance testing for COVID-19 to determine the present of the virus in the community in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Public Health. All systems will begin submitting specimens by Monday, March 16, 2020.

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

Calls were held with the Regional Hospital Coordinating Committee (RHCC), Mercyhealth to evaluate and respond to PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) requests which were filled from local RHCC and WCHD cache. Orders were placed to request assets from the State of Illinois Strategic Stockpile and are on backorder. Health systems have implemented procedures to conserve PPE while providing patient care and protecting healthcare workers.
On March 12, 2020, Winnebago County Health Department with support from the elected officials of Winnebago County including the Chairman and Mayor of the City of Rockford issues recommendations limiting non-essential public gatherings to 25 or less to reduce the risk for transmission of COVID-19 in the community. Calls were held with business leaders, parks/recreation, and venue coordinators to review the recommendation and implementation plans.

Region I counties of Boone, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, and Ogle issued the same recommendations on non-essential public gatherings.

Visitor restrictions to skilled nursing facilities/long-term care centers were implemented in Winnebago County.

On March 13, a call was held with School Superintendents in Winnebago to discuss plans for an earlier spring break to again reduce the risk of community transmission. With the Governor’s announcement, all schools were directed to close March 17 through March 30, 2020. The EOC has scheduled meetings with the schools to address issues around food security.

Home visiting programs were suspended by the Illinois Department of Human Services on March 13, 2020.

There were numerous cancellations, suspensions, and postponements of events and activities locally, state-wide, and nationally.

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

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

Key Messages:

- There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our region, including in Winnebago County.
- 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 residents should the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) spread locally.
- 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, if you or someone in your household is not feeling well stay home to keep others from getting sick.
- We expect that we will begin to see more cases of COVID-19. This is a quickly evolving situation and we will let the community know if additional steps are necessary.
- Persons over the age of 60 years and persons with chronic medical conditions are at greatest risk and should avoid mass gatherings and conduct business in off-hours.
• All schools in Winnebago County and throughout the state are closed effective March 17 through March 30, 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.
• The public is encouraged to Stay Put and avoid going out to decrease the risk of community transmission.
• Anyone under the age of 18 years or with signs and symptoms of illness will not be allowed to visit hospitalized patients in any of the three (3) health systems.
• 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
  o School Closure Notice
• Illinois Department of Public Health
  o Daily update for 03/09, 03/10, 03/12, 03/13
• Local Release
  o Public Event Recommendation (Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, Ogle)
  o Public Event Recommendation (Lee, Jo Daviess)

Note: materials are attached to report.

POLICY
Draft policy developed regarding compensation during Quarantine or Isolation was developed by Winnebago County.

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.

Please share this information within your organization as needed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions. I can be reached by cell 847.565.8266.