Liaison Report – COVID 19 – April 3, 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, law enforcement, fire departments, Department of Human Services, and others. WCHD continues to be in Incident Command to prepare and respond in this evolving situation.

SURVEILLANCE and INFORMATION TO HEALTHCARE PROVIDER COMMUNITY

There are now thirty-three (33) cases of confirmed COVID-19 in Winnebago County. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 do not include individuals who are evaluated by clinicians and diagnosed presumptively with COVID-19. There has been one (1) death in our community.

Below are details on testing in Winnebago County as of April 3, 2020. Private laboratory information is provided voluntarily by hospital and clinic partners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Testing for Winnebago County*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Tests thru Source</td>
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<td>Total Overall # of Tests:</td>
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*Note: Data is provisional and subject to change

Numerous calls have been handled to address questions regarding risk for COVID-19 and laboratory testing from healthcare providers. Health Department Disease Investigation staff contacts all individuals who are tested for COVID-19 to review isolation/quarantine directions and monitor all contacts to positive cases for development of symptoms.

WCHD held liaison calls on March 31 and April 3 with units of local government, transportation, public housing, education, emergency services, first responders, law enforcement, court system, correctional facilities, and others to provide updates on disease activity, key messages, and review of pandemic response planning.

Daily briefings were held with the Infection Control Healthcare Provider Group.
The Data Intelligence Group was activated to develop the epidemiologic curve and begin modeling for the next phase of the pandemic. This information is included in the WCHD Daily Report.

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

The Joint Information Center (JIC) was staffed with representatives from WCHD, City of Rockford, Rockford Public Schools, Rockford University, Rockford Area Visitors and Convention Bureau, Transform Rockford, and University of College of Medicine at Rockford.

Key Messages:

- Under the Executive Order #18 issued by the Governor, the general public is directed Stay Home through April 30 to decrease the risk of exposure.
- All schools in Winnebago County and throughout the state are closed through April 30, 2020.
- On April 3, 2020, Governor Pritzker encouraged the general public to wear handmade masks or bandanas when out of the house performing essential functions.
- The JIC is developing messages for the public regarding masking.
- The EOC is working to coordinate donations of handmade masks, in addition to other supplies.
- On Thursday, the State issued an #ALLINILLINOIS campaign. The JIC is pushing it out through social media and the website at: (http://www.wchd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=756&Itemid=1354)
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 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 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.
- For questions and concerns regarding essential services in Winnebago County, email COVID19@wchd.org or view posted responses on our Home Page http://www.wchd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=682 under the Stay At Home Order.

Materials Developed and/or Shared:
News Conferences
- March 30 – case updates
- March 31 – announce first death, extension of Stay At Home Order
- April 2, case updates, social distancing, masking for essential, non-health care workers

WCHD Daily Report
- March 30, 2020
- March 31, 2020
- April 1, 2020
- April 2, 2020
- April 3, 2020

Social Media Messages/infographics (https://www.facebook.com/WinnebagoCountyHealth/)
- Wash your hands (3/28/2020)
- During COVID-19, shopping for essential items should NOT be a family activity. (4/1)
- Choose ONE person from your household to go to the store. (3/31)
- National Doctors Day (3/30)
- Thank you to essential service workers in Winnebago County (4/2)
- Daily Report (4/1)
- Going out for an essential need? Wear a mask or bandana (4/3)

WCHD Website Updates (www.wchd.org)
- Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order #18, extending the Stay at Home order through 4/30/2020
- IDPH recommendations for masking and disinfecting in residential congregate living facilities
- Face mask donation requests and instructions for essential, non-health care workers
- #ALLINILLINOIS
  Public Information on:
  - Not the time to browse...
  - Choose one household member to shop

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 COVID19@wchd.org.

Please share this information within your organization as needed.