This is an update on the activities of the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) related to the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (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 one thousand four hundred and ten (1410) 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 have been Thirty-nine (39) deaths in our community, including residents from long-term-care facilities. Of those that have tested positive, three-hundred and twenty-seven (327) have recovered.

Below are details on testing in Winnebago County as of May 15, 2020. Private laboratory information is provided voluntarily by hospital and clinic partners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Number of Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>1410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>7451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>5242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Tests</td>
<td>14103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Data are provisional as of 5/15/2020 and are subject to change. Number of negative tests may be higher than reported, as healthcare providers are voluntarily reporting negative results.

The Winnebago County Health Department Disease Investigation staff continuing their efforts on managing data, contract tracing, and responding to outbreaks in congregate settings. They are very grateful to the many MRC volunteers and additional staff that are supporting them. The team is providing documentation of testing in writing for person’s needing to return to work.

Locations of concern are identified on the daily report and currently include 18 congregated settings.

WCHD held liaison calls on May 12 and May 15 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.

Daily calls were held with the policy group to discuss local policy decisions and processes for the response.

The Data Intelligence Group continue to utilize graphs and charts for the daily report that to provide additional information used in the Restore Illinois Plan, the State’s 5-phase regional plan for safely re-opening Illinois. The plan is guided by public health metrics, is data-driven, and operates on a region-by-region basis.

The WCHD Congregate Strike Team continues to be a support system for all of the facilities in Winnebago County by providing guidance and support to the staff, and residents of these facilities. This team is providing education to both residents and staff on handwashing, social distancing, and identifying COVID-19. This team is also obtaining and deciphering additional guidance for some facilities and continuing to work through supply issues on behalf of the congregate facility.

The WCHD Communities of Concern Strike Team continues to work to ensure access to resources and direct communication in neighborhoods based on zip codes that we know have been most impacted by COVID-19 (have the largest percentage of positive cases/number of residents). The team continues to build a group of influences to distribute social media messages and through this group pushed out information on staying home, cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, and encouraging taking advantage of pick-up and delivery services. This team collaborated with the Joint Information Center to launch a “Why 815 is Masking Up” campaign to encourage the community to wear their masks. This team is also working with influencers on video messaging to young adults to discourage group gatherings.

MRC Volunteers continuing to support the public health response to COVID-19 by conducting contact investigations, distributing information on COVID-19 to the Communities of Concern, assisting with mental health services in congregated settings. Volunteers were recognized at the news conference on May 14 with two of them speaking on their experiences.

IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) and IEMA (Illinois Emergency Management Agency) are in a unified command.

Drive-thru testing locations continue to be available in our community. Individuals who are experiencing symptoms, are household contacts of individuals with symptoms of COVID-19, healthcare workers/first responders, or essential workers can go directly to the testing site. They do not need to call ahead and no appointment is needed, identification is needed (Driver’s license, school/work identification). There is no cost for the test and no citizenship/residency requirement. Tests are provided on a first come, first serve basis as only 500 tests are available each day at the two drive-thru locations barring inclement weather. Results may take up to 5 days.

- UIC Health Sciences Campus – Rockford – 7 days a week; 8am to 4pm, or until supplies last
- Auburn High School – Mon-Friday – 9am to 4:30pm, or until supplies last

Residents can also call ahead to their healthcare provider who will make arrangements to have them tested, or for more testing location, can go the IDPH website: https://dph.illinois.gov/testing
This week, the Winnebago County Health Department received COVID-19 test results from the original state-contracted lab for tests done at the Community Based Testing Site located at the UIC Health Sciences Campus – Rockford between April 24 an May 6.

While the EOC continues to receive donations for essential items (including handmade masks and PPE donations) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am - 2 pm.

Essential services should continue to contact the Winnebago County Health Department if they are concerned about an employee testing positive for COVID-19. We can assist with communications to staff and the community.

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

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

Key Messages:

- Stay Home, Save Lives.
- When you do go out in public for essentials, stay apart at least 6 feet and wear a handmade mask, especially in places were staying apart is more challenging like the grocery store or pharmacy.
  - The JIC is encouraging for only 1 shopper per household to go out so it is it not a family event.
  - The JIC continues to promote only going out for essential errands, and to utilize delivery and curbside services when possible.
- Masking
  - The JIC is promoting how to properly wear a face covering that covers both the mouth and nose.
  - The Communities of Concern team, C.O.C., developed a masking campaign that includes images and quotes from influencers in the community and why they wear their masks. The JIC also shares these messages.
- COVID-19 Community Based Triage, Testing, and Transfer is open 7 days a week from 8 am to 4 pm. The JIC is promoting the TTT in addition to the Auburn High School location for testing.
  - The JIC has been putting out messaging to assure individuals who have been tested at the TTT site, that their test results are not lost and being manually sent to WCHD. Test results are being reported to individuals who were tested at the UIC site.
  - TTT at UIC College of medicine offers a self- swab nasal test (for symptomatic)
  - Auburn High School Community Testing site offers nasal pharyngeal test (symptomatic and asymptomatic)
- 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 JIC continues to put out mental health messaging for the community with resources, such as 211, to seek help if needed.

- Persons over the age of 60 years and persons with chronic medical conditions are at greatest risk.
  - The JIC continues to put out messaging to encourage people to go to the doctor to manage their chronic conditions.
  - The JIC also put out messaging to encourage pregnant mothers to still go to their prenatal appointments.

Cleaning
- The JIC continues to put out messaging about what to clean during COVID-19, such as frequently touched surfaces

Nurses Week
- The JIC made a post to recognize and thank nurses.

National Police Week
- The JIC put out messaging thanking law enforcement.

Communities of Concern
- The JIC put out messaging to explain that a team from WCHD will be going out to high risk ZIP codes to provide information and resources for COVID-19.
- The JIC is promoting the C.O.C. Masking Campaign.

Locations of Concern
- Some locations that were removed from the list due to not having new cases in 14 days
  - PA Peterson
  - East Bank

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.

If you are managing a chronic condition, your doctor’s visits are essential. Stay in contact with your provider they may be able to offer telehealth services if you’re unable to go to your visit in person.

In addition to staying home, the public can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 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.
  - WEARING A MASK where you are out of the house, performing essential functions.

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
- May 4, 2020 – Restore Illinois Plan - Phases of Recovery
- May 7, 2020 – Volunteers / Communities of Concern Strike Team

WCHD Daily Report
- May 11, 2020
- May 12, 2020
- May 13, 2020
- May 14, 2020
- May 15, 2020

Social Media Messages/infographics (https://www.facebook.com/WinnebagoCountyHealth/)
- Pregnant Moms (5.10.2020)
- Stay Home, Save Lives (05.11.2020)
- News conference live (05.12.2020)
- Essential Errands (05.12.2020)
- Nurses Week Errands (05.12.2020)
- Mental Health – 211 Errands (05.12.2020)
- Testing UIC Results Update Errands (05.12.2020)
- Stay Home, Save Lives (05.12.2020)
- What to Clean Errands (05.13.2020)
- Stay Home (05.13.2020)
- Masking Campaign w/ COC (05.13.2020)
- Stay Home, Save Lives (05.13.2020)
- How to Wear a Mask (05.14.2020)
- News conference live (05.14.2020)
- Stay Home, Save Lives (05.14.2020)
- Testing (05.15.2020)
- Thank you Officers (05.15.2020)
- Masking Campaign w/ COC (05.15.2020)
- Reopening (05.16.2020)

WCHD Website Updates (www.wchd.org)
- Testing Site Information
- Daily reports

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.

Thank you,