Liaison Report – COVID-19 – May 29, 2020

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 two thousand one hundred and twenty-six (2126) 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 fifty-nine (59) deaths in our community, including residents from long-term-care facilities. Of those that have tested positive, six-hundred and eighty-seven (687) have recovered.

Below are details on testing in Winnebago County as of May 29, 2020. Moving forward, WCHD will only be reporting on positive and negative tests. As new sites are starting to conduct testing, including pharmacy based testing sites, WCHD does not get the numbers on all those tested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Testing Results for Winnebago County*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
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<td>18,243</td>
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*Note: Data is provisional and 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. With the increase of testing at long term care there is an increase in disease control work with congregate settings. The team is providing documentation of testing in writing for person’s needing to return to work through the two community based testing sites.

Locations of concern are identified on the daily report and currently include 27 congregated settings.

WCHD held a liaison on May 29 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. The Tuesday call was canceled as a local news conference was held at 3:30 on May 26.

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 WCHD Congregate Strike Team continues to work with facilities to provide trainings and education. This team continues to provide testing kits to the facilities that have requested them as well.

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 push out a social media campaign with the JIC that encouraged people to wear a mask and continues to work to get donation of masks to those who need them in the communities of concern.

MRC Volunteers continuing to support the public health response to COVID-19 by conducting contact investigations and supporting the COVID-19 testing site at Auburn High School. From March 19 to May 22, the MRC has put in 1294 hours of service, saving the County $42,895.46. This calculation estimate takes into consideration the type of Volunteer, so one of our volunteer that is a doctor is calculated at a higher rate than one volunteers that is a student.

TAKE THE PLEDGE, go to [www.rockfordcleanhands.com](http://www.rockfordcleanhands.com)

A new regional multi-county initiative was started called Clean Hands, Open Doors that supports the work of the Rockford Region Rebounding. Local businesses and organizations are invited to voluntarily commit to seven standards intended to reduce disease transmission and rebuild consumer confidence as the economy re-opens. To learn about these standards or to take the pledge and gain access to a toolkit of graphics for display, go to the [www.rockfordcleanhands.com](http://www.rockfordcleanhands.com).

As Winnebago County moves into Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan, we will have to learn to Co-Exist with the virus. In Phase 3, certain businesses and activities are allowed to resume with IDPH-approved safety guidance in place.

- The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity has issued guidelines for 10 different industry categories including: Manufacturing, Offices, Retail, Service Counters, Health and Fitness Centers, Personal Care Services, Outdoor Recreation, Day Camps, Youth Sports, and Restaurants and Bars. To view this guidance, go to: [https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/RestoreILP3.aspx](https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/RestoreILP3.aspx)

- WHCD has issued guidance for places of worship, restaurants and bars, and childcare and youth summer programs. This guidance is attached and available on the WCHD website under the COVID-19 section for Response Partners: [http://www.wchd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=750&Itemid=1350](http://www.wchd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=750&Itemid=1350)

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

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.
- **Masking/Face Coverings**
  - The JIC continues to promote 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 put out messaging to the community to remind that both testing sites were closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day. The JIC also posted on the closing of the site at UIC due to weather on Saturday.
- You hold the key
The JIC messaged about personal responsibility for wearing a face covering and social distancing so that our community can continue to move to the next reopening phase.

- Phase 3
  - The JIC promoted guidance of the phase 3 Restore Illinois plan that is set to take place Friday May 29, 2020. The JIC put out guidelines for the following:
    - Manufacturing
    - Offices
    - Gyms/Fitness
    - Retail
    - Personal Care
    - Service Centers
    - Outdoor Recreation
    - Daycare
    - Youth Sports
    - Restaurants/Bars

- 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.

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

- Symptoms
  - The JIC continues to put out messaging to remind the community what the updated COVID-19 symptoms are per the CDC: cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills, headache, loss of taste/smell, muscle pain, shaking with chills, and sore throat

- Locations of Concern
  - Some locations added to the list this week:
    - Alpine Fireside Health Center
    - Mosaic Group Home
    - PA Peterson
    - Presence Cor Mariae Center
    - Wesley Willows
    - Winnebago County Juvenile Justice Center

- 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.

- 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](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 26, 2020 – Phases/Recovery
- May 28, 2020 – Pending Tests / You Hold the Key / Reporting on Tests / Increasing Sites / Phase 3 Workgroups and childcare / Clean Hands, Open Doors pledge

**WCHD Daily Report:**
- May 25, 2020
- May 26, 2020
- May 27, 2020
- May 28, 2020
- May 29, 2020

**Social Media Messages/infographics ([https://www.facebook.com/WinnebagoCountyHealth/](https://www.facebook.com/WinnebagoCountyHealth/))**
- Memorial Day – Testing Site Closure (05.24.2020)
- News Conference Schedule Change (05.24.2020)
- Daily Report (05.24.2020)
- Memorial Day – Testing Site Closure (05.25.2020)
- News Conference Schedule Change(05.25.2020)
- Daily Report (05.25.2020)
- News conference live (05.26.2020)
- Phase 3 Reopening Guidance (05.26.2020)
- How to Wear a Face Covering (05.27.2020)
- COC – why 815 is Masking Up Campaign (05.27.2020)
- Manufacturing Reopening Guidance (05.27.2020)
- Office Reopening Guidance (05.27.2020)
- Service Counter Reopening Guidance (05.27.2020)
- Daily Report (05.27.2020)
- Health and Fitness Reopening Guidance (05.28.2020)
- You Hold the Keys (05.28.2020)
- Personal Care Services Reopening Guidance (05.28.2020)
• Retail Business Reopening Guidance (05.28.2020)
• News conference live (05.28.2020)
• Daily Report (05.28.2020)
• Mental Health (05.29.2020)
• Masking (05.29.2020)
• Clean Hands, Open Doors (05.29.2020)
• Daily Report (05.29.2020)
• Cleaning (05.30.2020)

WCHD Website Updates (www.wchd.org)
  o Response Partner - Guidance
  o 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,