
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 at a partial activation, Level 3 status, through this week with staff from the City of Rockford, Winnebago County Health Department, Salvation Army, and others. WCHD continues to be in Incident Command to prepare and respond in this evolving situation.

SURVEILLANCE INFORMATION

There are now two thousand nine hundred and sixty-six (2,966) 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 eighty-five (88) deaths in our community, including residents from long-term-care facilities. Of those that have tested positive, the recovery rate is ninety-four point seven percent (94.7%).

Below are details on testing in Winnebago County as of June 26, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Testing Results for Winnebago County*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</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.

Locations of concern are identified on the daily report and currently include nineteen (19) congregated settings. Locations are removed when the location has had no new cases of COVID-19 in two incubation periods.

COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

The Winnebago County Health Department Disease Investigation staff continued their efforts on managing data, contract tracing, and responding to outbreaks in 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. Businesses and organizations 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.

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 Executive Order Strike Team** continues to work on guidelines for phase 4 and to educated organizations/businesses in ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in their facilities. Illinois moved to Phase 4 of the Restore Plan today, June 26 during which:

- Retail, restaurants, and bars are able to open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance
- Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are permitted while social distancing and wearing face coverings;

Additional information on Phase 4 can be viewed here: [https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-phase-4](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-phase-4)

Guidance on Phase 4 can be viewed here: [https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4](https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4)

The **WCHD Congregate Strike Team** continues to work with facilities to provide trainings and education. Testing kits are provided to facilities upon request. The team is assisting facilities with ordering testing supplies through IDPH for both sites with active outbreaks of COVID-19 and those without outbreaks. The team is also assisting with guidance issued from IDPH on outdoor visitations.

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. The team has issued postcards to over 44,000 residential addresses in the 5 zip codes in the communities of concern to encourage residents to wear their mask when leaving home, provide resources for coping with impacts from COVID-19, and remind residents to complete the census when returning home.

**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.

**Response Calls**

- WCHD did not hold a liaison call this week. At this time, a liaison call will occur on an as needed basis. The weekly liaison reports will continue to be issued with updates in the response.
- Briefings with Infection Control Healthcare Provider Group will only be held as needed.
- One call was held with elected officials.
- The policy group held two calls this week to discuss local policy decisions and processes for the response.

**Emergency Operations Center**

- IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) and IEMA (Illinois Emergency Management Agency) are in a unified command.
- The EOC is partial activation at a Level 3 status and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm
- The EOC continues to receive donations at 5460 E. State St. for essential items (including handmade masks and PPE donations) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am - 2 pm.
Testing Information

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. Neither site requires identification and there is no citizenship/residency requirement. Both testing sites are FREE and will test all people, regardless of symptoms. 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

Those who have been in a large gathering where social distancing and masking was not adhered to should self-monitor for symptoms and be tested immediately upon experiencing symptoms or within 5 – 7 days of attending the gathering if asymptomatic.

Guidance for Businesses

Take The Clean Hands, Open Doors Pledge, go to www.rockfordcleanhands.com

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.

Winnebago County continues to have community spread of COVID-19 and we must co-exist with the virus. In Phase 4, businesses and activities are beginning to resume with IDPH-approved safety guidance in place.

- Guidance for re-opening can be found at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity: https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4/
- WHCD has issued guidance specific to places of worship, restaurants and bars, and childcare and youth summer programs, Annual Township Meetings and has shared IDPH guidance on outdoor visitation for long term care facilities. This guidance is available on the WCHD website under the COVID-19 section for Response Partners: http://www.wchd.org/covid/response-partners
- Make sure that your business plans for reopening are mindful of Trauma as well. For information about trauma, go to https://winnebagotraumainformed.com/

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:
When you go out in public, stay apart at least 6 feet and wear a handmade face covering or 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.
- The JIC has been working to create new creative messages to promote mask wearing.
  - “Face or space”
  - “Thank you”
  - “How to mask”
- The JIC has been working on messaging to address myths about face coverings and provide the following facts:
  - “My face covering needs to cover my mouth and nose”
  - “Wearing a cloth face covering protects my community”
  - “Even though I’m not sick, I need to wear a face covering”

**Testing**
- 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, which is open M-F 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.
- The JIC has encouraged anyone who has been in a large group gathering where social distancing could not be maintained by tested for COVID-19.

**Phase 3**
- Enjoy Messaging
  - The JIC is promoting positive messaging for activities people can enjoy now that we are in phase 3 of Restore Illinois.
  - “You hold the key”

**Phase 4**
- The JIC has been pushing out messages and guidelines for Phase 4 of Restore Illinois. Illinois moved into phase 4 on June 26, 2020. The JIC issued messaging on guidance for the following sectors: Day Camps, Personal Care Services, Health and Fitness, Service Counters, Retail, Offices, Manufacturing, Film Production, Youth Sports, Zoo, Theater, Museum, Restaurants and Bars, Out and Indoor Recreation.

**Mental Health**
- 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 disseminates messaging about cleaning frequently touched surfaces during COVID-19.

- 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.

- New positions
  - WCHD is hiring several positions for contact tracers, disease investigators, and supervisors to assist in the local COVID-19 response. The JIC has been promoting the job postings on social media.

- Daily Report Updates
  - The JIC has messaged about changes to expect to the daily report for phase 4 including:
    - Full daily reports Monday and Thursday.
    - Report that includes cases, deaths, recovery rate, and daily positivity rate (five day average) – Monday through Friday.
    - There will be no weekend reports.

- COVID-19 Donation Center
  - The JIC continues to promote the donation center open Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The donation center is located in the former Circuit City building at 5460 E. State St. Below are the current needs:
    - Bleach
    - Toilet Paper
    - Feminine Products
    - Shampoo
    - Shaving Cream
    - Razors
    - Hand Sanitizer
    - Hand Soap
    - Men’s and Women’s New Underwear
    - New Socks
    - Trash Bags
    - Deodorant
    - Toothbrush/Toothpaste
    - Homemade Masks
    - Disinfectant Wipes/Cleaning Sprays
    - PPE
      - Gloves
      - Masks
      - Gowns
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 continue to keep Winnebago County healthy by:

- **Wearing a face mask** when leaving home for essential services
- **Staying apart** by maintaining social/physical distancing of 6 feet
- **Washing your hands** frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds
- **Helping to educate others** on the importance of masking and social distancing

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 about COVID-19 in Winnebago County, email COVID19@wchd.org or call

**Materials Developed and/or Shared:**

**News Conferences**
- June 22, 2020
  - Phase 4
  - Businesses / Personal / Collective Responsibility To Limit Exposure
  - Wear your mask

**WCHD Daily Report:**
- June 22, 2020
- June 23, 2020
- June 24, 2020
- June 25, 2020
- June 26, 2020

**Social Media Messages/infographics** ([https://www.facebook.com/WinnebagoCountyHealth/](https://www.facebook.com/WinnebagoCountyHealth/))

**Monday 6/22**
- News conference
- COVID-19 Testing
- Don’t Make Me Ask
- Cleaning
- Restore IL
- Daily Report
- COC Masking
- Phase 4

**Tuesday 6/23**
- You Hold the Key
- Phase 4
- COVID Isn’t Over
 Job Postings
You Hole the Key
Face Mask Myth Debunk
Pop-up Market
Daily Report

Wednesday 6/24
Symptoms
How to Mask
Testing
Phase 4
Daily Report

Thursday 6/25
Mental Health
Job Postings
Donation Center
Phase 4
Face Masks Myth Debunk
COC Masking
Daily Report

Friday 6/26
Phase 4
Face Masks Myth Debunk
Testing Update – Weather
Pop-up Market
Limit Your Risk

WCHD Website Updates (www.wchd.org)
Response Partners
Daily reports
Important Updates

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,