
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 three thousand one hundred and thirty-four (3,134) 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 ninety-nine (99) deaths in our community, including residents from long-term-care facilities. Of those that have tested positive, the recovery rate is ninety-six point one percent (96.1%). The seven day rolling average positivity rate is three point nine percent (3.9%).

Below are details on testing in Winnebago County as of July 10, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Testing Results for Winnebago County*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35,522</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 twenty (20) congregated settings. One (1) location has been added and two (2) removed this week. 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 to provide additional information used in the Restore Illinois Plan, the State’s 5-phase regional plan for safely re-opening Illinois. The group monitors the IDPH County Level COVID-19 Risk Metrics.
The **WCHD Executive Order Strike Team** continues to work with organizations/businesses on phase 4 guidance and provide education on ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in their facilities. Illinois moved to Phase 4 of the Restore Plan on 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

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)

As we learn to co-exist with COVID-19, the public should be aware of ways to manage risk of exposure including wearing a face covering, staying apart by 6 feet, limiting time spent with others, and being aware of environmental factors that can make a difference. For example, when meeting with others, choose an outdoors location vs. inside site when possible. Take note of establishments that have signed the pledge to follow prevention guidance and those that have been closed by the Winnebago County Health Department due to public health concerns.

The **WCHD Congregate Strike Team** continues to work with facilities to provide trainings and education. The team is assisting facilities with ordering testing supplies. Facilities with an active COVID-19 outbreak can order supplies directly through IDPH. 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 donations of masks to those who need them in the communities of concern. The team has received over 2,600 donated masks and has distributed more than 1,900 into the communities of concern. Volunteers helped to make over 800 masking kits this week.

**MRC Volunteers** continuing to support the public health response to COVID-19 by conducting contact investigations. As of July 10, 2020, volunteers have completed 2,183 hours, saving the county a total of $67,409.73, in supporting the COVID-19 Response. This week volunteers assisted with contact tracing, making mask kits, and at the COVID-19 testing site located at Auburn High School.

**Response Calls**
- WCHD did not hold a liaison call this week. At this time, a liaison call will only occur as needed. 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.
- The elected officials call and the policy group calls will resume next week as planned.

**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. 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
  - o The Community Based Testing Site at UIC has changed the type of test from self-swab to a swab performed by a medical professional.
- 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](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](http://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/](https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4/)
- WHCD guidance specific like that on Annual Township Meetings and links to IDPH guidance like that on outdoor visitation for long term care facilities is available on the WCHD website under the COVID-19 section for Response Partners: [http://www.wchd.org/covid/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/](https://winnebagotraumainformed.com/)

**JOINT INFORMATION CENTER**
The Joint Information Center (JIC) was staffed with representatives from WCHD, City of Rockford, and University of College of Medicine at Rockford and healthcare system representatives.

Key Messages:
- When you go out in public, stay apart at least 6 feet and wear a cloth 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.
    - Minimize Your Risk Series
    - Never Leave Home Without the Essentials
    - Your Community Counts on You
- Testing
  - COVID-19 Community Based Testing Site at UIC is open 7 days a week from 8 am to 4 pm. The JIC is promoting that site in addition to the Auburn High School location for testing, which is open M-F 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.
    - The Community Based Testing Site at UIC has changed the type of test from self-swab to a swab performed by a medical professional.
  - 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.
- 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
  - The JIC created updated symptoms messaging about not gathering with others if you have any of the COVID-19 symptoms.
- 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.

- **Travel**
  - The JIC has been crafting messages regarding traveling outside of the community your reside in. The JIC is referring the community to the CDC travel guidelines: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html)
  - Messages are also designed so that community members can assess their risk. For example, how or where they choose to travel.

- **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

- **Pop Up Pantry**
  - The JIC promotes the pop up pantry hosted by the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Pop up food markets will continue to be hosted at the COVID-19 Donation Center (Circuit City) through the remainder of 2020.
  - The hours will be 9:00 am – 12:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. The first market of this schedule will begin **Saturday July 11th**.

**Materials Developed and/or Shared:**

**News Conferences**
- There was no news conference update held this week.
The Illinois Department of Public Health is reporting COVID-19 metrics for the state and all counties. WCHD will share the case count, death count, positivity rate, and recovery rate for Winnebago County, Monday through Friday. Visit https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19 for additional information.

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

Monday 7/6
- Be a Good Neighbor
- Thank You for Masking
- COVID Isn’t Over
- COC Masking
- Daily Update

Tuesday 7/7
- Travel
- Masking: Don’t Make Me Ask
- Job Postings
- Daily Update

Wednesday 7/8
- Symptoms
- Minimize Your Risk: Eating Out
- Testing Site Weather Closure
- Your Community Counts On You
- Daily Update

Thursday 7/9
- Mosquitos Do Not Spread COVID
- COVID-19 Donation Center
- Minimize Your Risk: Shopping
- Never Leave Home Without the Essentials
- Cleaning
- Daily Update

Friday 7/10
- Assess Your Risk
- Minimize Your Risk: Gathering
- Masking: How to Wear
- COC Masking
- Daily Update

Saturday 7/11
- Be a Good Neighbor
- Face or Space
• Testing
• Symptoms

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,