
This is an update on the activities of the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) related to the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). WCHD continues to be in Incident Command to prepare and respond in this evolving situation. The Winnebago County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) continues to support the response to COVID-19 and is operating at a partial activation, Level 3 status.

SURVEILLANCE INFORMATION

There are now three thousand two hundred and ninety-two (3,292) 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 three percent (96.3%). The seven day rolling average positivity rate is two point seven percent (2.7%).

Below are details on testing in Winnebago County as of July 17, 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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

The Winnebago County Health Department Disease Investigation Group continued their efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community by managing data, contract tracing, and responding to outbreaks. Businesses and organizations should continue to contact the Winnebago County Health Department if they are concerned about an employee testing positive for COVID-19. The team is providing documentation of testing in writing for person’s needing to return to work through the two community based testing sites. The group is working to expand capacity to conduct this work by hiring additional staff.

The Data Intelligence Group continue to utilize graphs and charts for the daily update on COVID-19 and 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. Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health announced a new COVID-19 mitigation plan on July 15 to prevent a resurgence of COVID-19 in Illinois. View the Governor’s News Release Here. In this new plan, Winnebago County is now in the
North region with our eight regional county partners: Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside. View the actions to combat a resurgence of COVID-19 here.

The **WCHD Congregate Strike Team** continues to work with facilities to provide trainings and education. The team is assisting facilities with ordering testing supplies.

The **WCHD Communities of Concern Strike Team** continues to work to connect residents to resources in neighborhoods most impacted by COVID-19 (have the largest percentage of positive cases/ number of residents). The team continues to push out a social media messages with the JIC to encouraged people to wear a mask and continues to work to get donations of masks to those who need them. The team has distributed more than 2,300 into the communities of concern.

**MRC Volunteers** continuing to support the public health response to COVID-19 by conducting contact investigations. As of July 17, 2020, volunteers have completed 2,240 hours, saving the county a total of $68,773.47, in supporting the COVID-19 Response. This week volunteers assisted with contact tracing 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 policy group call and elected officials call resumed this week as regularly scheduled on Monday and Wednesday respectively.

**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.

**COVID-19 Testing Information**
Who can be tested at our community based testing sites?
- Anyone who needs a test, whether or not they have symptoms can go directly to a testing site. They do not need to call ahead and no appointment is needed. There is no citizenship/residency requirement.

Where are the community based testing sites?
- **UIC Health Sciences Campus – Rockford** – 7 days a week; 8am to 4pm, or until supplies last
  - 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
- **Mobile testing sites coming to Winnebago County over the next two weeks, starting Monday, July 20th**
  - See attachment “MobileTestingSites_Locations” for dates and locations
These mobile testing sites will be open from 9am to 5pm

Other testing site locations:

- 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

Guidance for Businesses

Winnebago County continues to have community spread of COVID-19. As businesses and activities resume with IDPH-approved safety guidance in place the following resources may be helpful:

- WHCD specific guidance is available on the WCHD website under the COVID-19 section for Response Partners: http://www.wchd.org/covid/response-partners
  - Travel guidance was issued this week. Click here to view the guidance.
- The Clean Hands, Open Doors Communications Toolkit
  - Take Pledge, go to https://www.rockfordcleanhands.com/take-the-pledge
  - Then use the toolkit: https://www.rockfordcleanhands.com/communicate-your-commitment
- 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.

Guidance for the Public

- Protect Your Community: Take the following action to prevent the spread and protect others
  - WEAR A FACE MASK: Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth to help prevent the spread of the virus to others, especially those with underlying health conditions
  - WATCH YOUR DISTANCE: Keep at least 6 feet apart from others
  - WASH YOUR HANDS: Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds frequently to prevent spread.
- Manage Your Risk: Reduce the risk of becoming COVID-19 positive
  - LIMIT YOUR TIME: When possible, limit your time with others not in your household to less than 15 minutes. The more time you spend around others, the greater your risk of exposure.
  - GO OUTSIDE: When getting together, outdoors is safer than inside to prevent the spread of COVID-19
  - LEAVE WHEN NEEDED: Leave if guidelines are not being followed, there are others around not masking or social distancing, or there are too many people around.
- Answer The Call:
  - The NIR-HDs are working hard to help protect the community from COVID-19 and provide resources to those who have been infected by or exposed to the virus. We need your help. If you receive a call or text message from your local health department, answer or return the call. If you are positive for COVID-19, your local health department will provide information to support isolation at home and will ask for information on your recent activities and contacts.

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 do 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 Triage, Testing, and Transfer at UIC 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.
    - UIC College of Health Sciences Community Testing Site 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.
  - The JIC is promoting the IDPH mobile testing sites that will be in Winnebago County July 20- August 1, 2020
    - The mobile testing sites will be at a new location each day from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

- **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 to that community members can assess their risk. For example, how or where they choose to travel.
  - WCHD has also developed travel guidance: [http://www.wchd.org/.../COV.../WCHD_TravelGuidance_07152020.pdf](http://www.wchd.org/.../COV.../WCHD_TravelGuidance_07152020.pdf)

- 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
- Monday July 13, 2020
  - Travel
  - Blood Donations
  - Contact Tracers
  - Early Voting

WCHD Daily COVID-19 Update:
- WCHD will share the case count, death count, positivity rate, and recovery rate for Winnebago County, Monday through Friday.
- Attached are the WCHD daily COVID-19 updates for July 13, 2020 thru July 17. These updates are also available online at: [http://www.wchd.org/covid/daily-report](http://www.wchd.org/covid/daily-report)
- The Illinois Department of Public Health is reporting COVID-19 metrics for the state and all counties. Visit [https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19](https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19) for additional information.

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

Monday 7/13
- COVID Isn’t Over
- How to Mask
- Minimize Your Risk: Gatherings
- News Conference

Tuesday 7/14
- Mental Health
- Essentials
- Minimize Your Risk: Shopping
- C.O.C Masking

Wednesday 7/15
- Assess Your Risk
- Thank You for Masking
- Your Community Counts on You

Thursday 7/16
- Cleaning
- Recovery Masking
- Minimize Your Risk: Eating Out
- Donation Center
- You Hold the Key
- C.O.C Messaging
- Don’t Make Me Ask Masking

Friday 7/17
Travel
Be A Good Neighbor
Answer The Call

Saturday 7/18
- Masks Protect Others
- Safe Summer

Sunday 7/19
- Testing
- Symptoms
- Mobile Testing Sites

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,