
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 six hundred and twenty-six (3,626) 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 one hundred and fourteen (114) 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 three point eight percent (3.8%).

Below are details on testing in Winnebago County as of July 31, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Testing Results for Winnebago County*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Positive</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Negative</strong></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 continues their efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Operations this week include Disease Investigation and Community Outreach.

The Disease Investigation Section continues contract tracing and responding to outbreaks. The group continues to monitor data from IDPH on the County level and regional COVID-19 metrics. The team is updating and maintaining travel guidance which is posted to the WCHD website on Tuesdays. Currently, the guidance states that to reduce transmission of COVID-19, visitors should avoid traveling to and /or having visitors from areas with rates of disease transmission higher than Winnebago County. This week the travel guidance was revised to include Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina and all locations in Missouri and Wisconsin. See the attached travel guidance issued July 28.

The Community Outreach Section 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. The group is reviewing guidance for returning to school and assisting long term care and congregate facilities with testing and with IDPH and CDC guidance. This group has also worked with IDPH to bring mobile COVID-19 testing sites to Winnebago County with a third week of testing lined up for next week. These mobile testing sites are also open to the public. The team has been working to inform the communities of
concern about the mobile testing locations and provide masks for to those who need them at testing sites located in communities of concern.

**MRC Volunteers** continuing to support the public health response to COVID-19 by conducting contact investigations. As of July 31, 2020, volunteers have completed 2,331 hours, saving the county a total of $70,951.37, 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.

**Emergency Operations Center**
- 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
- Auburn High School – Monday-Friday; 9am to 4:30pm, or until supplies last
- Mobile testing sites continue to be available through August 9
  - 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](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:
- Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Guidance for Phase 4: [https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4/](https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4/)
- WHCD specific guidance 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)
  - 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](https://www.rockfordcleanhands.com/take-the-pledge)
  - Then use the toolkit: [https://www.rockfordcleanhands.com/communicate-your-commitment](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.

- **Travel Guidance:** Travel guidance is issued on Tuesdays and currently, the guidance states that to reduce transmission of COVID-19, visitors should avoid traveling to and /or having visitors from areas with rates of disease transmission higher than Winnebago County. This week the travel guidance was revised to include Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina and all locations in Missouri and Wisconsin. View current travel guidance issued July 28 here: [http://www.wchd.org/images/COVID19/WCHD_TravelGuidance_07282020.pdf](http://www.wchd.org/images/COVID19/WCHD_TravelGuidance_07282020.pdf)

- **Youth and Adult Recreational Sport Guidance:** Governor Pritzker announced guidance for youth and adult recreational sports that will go into effect on August 15. View the complete guidance at: [https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/sfc/servlet.shepherd/document/download/069t000000CyCndAAF?operationContext=S1](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/sfc/servlet.shepherd/document/download/069t000000CyCndAAF?operationContext=S1)

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 statement to encourage wearing a masks. The JIC shares these messages.

- **Testing**
  - COVID-19 Community Based Testing Site at UIC is open 7 days a week from 8 am to 4 pm. The Auburn High School location is also open for testing, M-F 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.
  - The JIC is promoting the IDPH mobile testing sites that will be in Winnebago County July 20- August 9, 2020
    - The mobile testing sites will be open from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.
    - Below is the schedule for the mobile testing sites:
      - August 1 St. Bernadette Catholic Church
      - August 2 RHA-The Grove
      - August 3 RHA – Buckbee Apt.
      - August 4 Emmanuel Lutheran Church
August 5 WCHD – Robert Johnson Garden Apt
August 6 WCHA – Washington Park
August 7 United Way Strong Neighborhood House
August 8 Boylan Catholic High School
August 9 Muslim Association of Greater Rockford

- 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
  - 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/.../COVI.../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:
    - Handmade Face Coverings
    - 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

**Materials Developed and/or Shared:**

**News Conferences**
- Monday July 27, 2020
  - Getting School Ready
  - Mobile Testing Sites
  - Rockford Mass Transit Department Reopening

**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 27, 2020 thru July 31. 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 7/27**
  - Mobile Testing Sites
  - How To Mask
  - Travel
  - Assess Your Risk
  - News Conference

- **Tuesday 7/28**
  - Mobile Testing Sites
  - Cleaning
  - Mental Health
  - Celebrate Outside
  - C.O.C Message

- **Wednesday 7/29**
  - Mobile Testing Site
  - Symptoms
  - Be A Good Neighbor
  - Contact Tracing
Thursday 7/30
- Donation Center
- Mobile Testing Sites
- Essentials
- Masking in Schools
- Masking in Restaurants

Friday 7/31
- Mobile Testing Site
- Thank You For Masking
- Recovery Is In Face Masks

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,