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 four thousand one hundred and sixty-eight (4,168) 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 fifty (150) deaths in our community, including residents from long-term-care facilities. Of those that have tested positive, the recovery rate is ninety-six percent (96.0%). The seven day rolling average positivity rate is four point two percent (4.2%).

Below are details on testing in Winnebago County as of August 28, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Testing Results for Winnebago County*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60,628</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.

Today, Friday, August 28, the Winnebago County Health Department posted a weekly summary on COVID-19 that includes zip codes of concern, congregate locations of concern, and cases and deaths among race and ethnicity. This summary is attached at titled: WCHD_COVID19_WeeklyUpdateEnding_08282020.

Winnebago County is in Region 1 of the Illinois Department of Public Health eleven regions being monitored for COVID-19 resurgence. This week, two of the eleven regions are at warning level for COVID-19. These two regions, Region 4 and Region 7, have a positivity rate at eight percent (8%) or greater and have implemented additional mitigation strategies. Region 1 is not currently at warning level for COVID-19 with a positivity rate of five point one percent (5.1%). Region 1 is experiencing 7 days of positivity increases and two of the counties in the Region were announced at warning level for COVID-19 today, Carrol County and Jo Daviess County. Winnebago County is not currently at warning level for COVID-19.

COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

The Winnebago County Health Department continues their efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. WCHD continues to conduct contract tracing, respond to outbreaks, and provide education on ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Planning is in progress for population vaccination both to encourage early influenza vaccination and to prepare should a COVID-19 vaccine become available. In
addition, the response operations this week include assisting the community with the return to learning and working with congregate setting on IDPH and CDC guidance.

WCHD continues to issue travel guidance on Tuesdays. This week the travel guidance was revised to add South Dakota and remove Arizona, Hawaii, Kentucky, and North Carolina. See the most updated travel guidance issued August 25 here: http://www.wchd.org/images/COVID19/WCHD_TravelGuidance_08182020_Revised1030.pdf

WCHD has positions available to support the response. To view these positions, go to: https://my.wincoil.us/MSS/employmentopportunities/default.aspx.

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
- Rockton Community Testing Site - 3120 North Rockton Ave. - Monday- Thursday 9:00 am – 4:30 pm | Friday- 9:00 am – 4:00 pm or until supplies last

Are there 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. The following resources may be helpful:
- WCHD 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 is issued on Tuesdays.
- 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.

Restaurants: The Governor issued additional masking guidance this week that face coverings must be worn in restaurants anytime a customer interacts with a server or employee (i.e. while ordering, receiving drinks or food, etc.) Update guidance can be found here: https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4/indoor-and-outdoor-dining/

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
    - When at a restaurant, wear a face covering anytime you are out of your seat or interacting with your server or employee. Update guidance can be found here: https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4/indoor-and-outdoor-dining/
    - 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. View current travel guidance issued August 25 here: http://www.wchd.org/images/COVID19/WCHD_TravelGuidance_08252020.pdf

- **WCHD School Guidance:** The Winnebago County Health Department issued guidance for schools which can be viewed here: http://www.wchd.org/images/COVID19/WCHD_TravelGuidance_08042020.pdf
  Answers to parents’ questions about COVID-19 and schools can be found here: http://www.wchd.org/images/COVID19/QuestionsRegardingReopeningSchools_Responses_08182020.pdf

**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
• Essentials: The JIC has created additional masking messaging that reminds the community to wear their mask anytime they leave to go out in public.
  ▪ “Never leave home without the essentials: Keys, Phone, Wallet, Mask”

• 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.

• Schools: The JIC has been promoting that parents and community members have school age children practice wearing their masks before the school year begins. Masks will be required for students to wear all day. The JIC is also encouraging families to practice social distancing with their students before school begins (i.e. stay 6 bunny hops away from others)
  ▪ WCHD school guidelines:  
  ▪ School requirements and guidelines can be found at ISBE:  
    https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Part-3-Transition-Planning-Phase-4.pdf
  ▪ Dr. Martell hosted a live parent/school Q&A to address parent’s questions about children returning to school this fall. The link to that recording and a copy of the Q&A can be found:
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaQ1UQI9q6E&feature=youtu.be

• Restaurants: The JIC has been promoting messaging with the community about how and when to wear masks while dining out. Diners need to wear a face covering anytime they are out of their seat or interacting with their server unless they are eating or drinking.
  ▪ The Governor issued additional masking guidance this week at his news conference. The new guidance states that face coverings must be worn in restaurants anytime a customer interacts with a server or employee (i.e. while ordering, receiving drinks or food, etc.) Update guidance can be found here:
    • https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4/indoor-and-outdoor-dining/
  ▪ “Wear your mask on your feet and at your seat until you eat”

• Testing
  ▪ The JIC continues to promote the two community bases sites in Winnebago County. The JIC is encouraging anyone who has been in a large gathering where masking and social distancing did not take place to seek testing 5-7 days after the gathering.
    ▪ The JIC is asking the public to test 5-7 days after the gathering because testing too soon may give a false negative.

• Locations
  ▪ UIC College of Medicine, 1601 Parkview Ave, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
  ▪ Rockton Community Testing Site, 3120 North Rockton Ave, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
    Monday – Thursday | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Friday
• Mental Health
  o 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.
  o The JIC continues to put out mental health messaging for the community with resources, such as 211, to seek help if needed.
  o Managing stress
    ▪ The JIC developed messaging about managing stress during a pandemic by engaging in healthy activities and behaviors.

• Minimize Your Risk
  o The JIC has created a “minimize your risk” series to encourage the public to think about different safety precautions before enjoying activities in the community. Topics in the series include:
    ▪ Shopping
    ▪ Gathering
    ▪ Eating Out
    ▪ Travel

• Contacts/Contact Tracing
  o The JIC continues to push out messaging about contact tracing and defining the difference between a close contact and a household contact. The goal is to promote this public health tool so that the public understands and knows it is not fraudulent.
    ▪ “Answer the Call”
    ▪ “Understanding Your Risk”
  o Open positions
    ▪ The JIC continues to share the contact tracing job positions. To apply visit: https://my.wincoil.us/MSS/employmentopportunities/default.aspx?fbclid=IwAR3cIXCknShctDNkL85BU9hLA9PRKJefujN4FgXP5hcghc1tWRqJnleLGZ-M

• Symptoms
  o 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.
  o The JIC created updated symptoms messaging about not gathering with others if you have any of the COVID-19 symptoms.
  o If anyone is experiencing symptoms, they should isolate and seek testing from one of the community testing sites

• Sports
  o The Governor released updated youth and adult recreational sports guidelines. The JIC has been promoting these new guidelines. The guidelines have sports activities in low to high-risk categories. Below are the most updated guidelines:
    o https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4/youth-and-adult-sports-
• **Travel**
  o The JIC has been crafting messages regarding traveling outside of the community you 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)
  o Messages are also designed to that community members can assess their risk. For example, how or where they choose to travel.
  o WCHD has also developed travel guidance that is updated each week: [http://www.wchd.org/images/COVID19/WCHD_TravelGuidance_08252020.pdf](http://www.wchd.org/images/COVID19/WCHD_TravelGuidance_08252020.pdf)

• **COVID-19 Donation Center**
  o 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
  o The donation center will also be collecting school supplies for RPS 205 schools. There is a high need since students will no longer be able to share supplies this upcoming year as they typically would. These school supplies can be dropped off to the donation center during its regular hours. Below are the needs they are asking for:
    - Quart size Ziploc bags
    - Shelf stable healthy snacks
    - Plastic shoebox
    - Washable markers
- Crayons
- Notebooks
- Whiteboards
- Dry erase markers
- Crayon boxes
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Flashcards
- Coloring books
- Colored pencils
- Sidewalk chalk
- Glue sticks
- Construction paper
- Playing cards (for math games)
- Water colors
- Small puzzles
- Dice
- Anti-bacterial wipes
- Clip boards
- Composition notebooks

  - 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 next pop up market will be Saturday, September 12th

**Materials Developed and/or Shared:**

**News Conferences**
- Monday August 24, 2020
  - Back to school
    - Practice masking and social distancing
    - Learning space at home
    - Routine vaccines
    - Physicals
  - Seasonal flu
  - Census
  - Registering to vote

**WCHD Daily COVID-19 Update:**
- WCHD will share the case count, death count, positivity rate, and recovery rate for Winnebago County, Monday through Friday.
Based on community request, WCHD is currently posting a weekly summary report on COVID-19 that is issued on Fridays. This summary report includes zip codes of concern, congregate locations of concern, and cases and deaths among race and ethnicity. The following graphs and lists are included on the weekly summary:

- Total cases and deaths
- Cases and deaths by age
- Case by race and ethnicity
- Deaths by race and ethnicity
- Death in congregate setting
- Testing positivity
- Total number of tests
- Zip codes
- Locations of concern

Attached are the WCHD daily COVID-19 updates for August 24, 2020 thru August 28. 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 these metrics including school based metrics by county.

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

**Monday 8/24**
- C.O.C. Message
- Masks Not Political
- Job Postings
- Mental Health
- Testing Sites
- News Conference

**Tuesday 8/25**
- School Supply Donation Needs
- How to Wear Masks
- Practice Space-School
- Can’t Test Out of Quarantine

**Wednesday 8/26**
- WCHD Travel Guidance
- Thank You for Masking
- Be Kind
- Elderly Risk

**Thursday 8/27**
- Donation Center
- Be a Good Neighbor
- Mental Health
- Masking Restaurants
- Testing Protocols

**Friday 8/28**
- Assess Your Risk
- Practice Now School Masking
• Minimize Your Risk: Travel
• Essentials
• COVID Isn’t Over

Saturday 8/29
• Celebrate Outside
• Minimize Your Risk: Gatherings

Sunday 8/30
• Symptoms
• 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,