
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 through this week with staff from the City of Rockford, Winnebago County Health Department, law enforcement, fire departments, Department of Human Services, and others. Starting on Monday, June 8th, the Winnebago County Emergency Operations Center will shift to a partial activation at a Level 3 status and will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. WCHD continues to be in Incident Command to prepare and respond in this evolving situation.

SURVEILLANCE INFORMATION

There are now two thousand five hundred and one (2,501) 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 seventy-six (76) deaths in our community, including residents from long-term-care facilities. Of those that have tested positive, eight-hundred and seventy-three (873) have recovered.

Below are details on testing in Winnebago County as of June 5, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Testing Results for Winnebago County*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,992</td>
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</tbody>
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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 28 congregated settings.

COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

The Winnebago County Health Department Disease Investigation staff continuing 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. Essential services 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 working on guidelines for phase 4 such as swimming facilities, entertainment venues, and indoor dining.

The **WCHD Congregate Strike Team** continues to work with facilities to provide trainings and education. Testing kits are provided to facilities upon request.

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 distributed over 600 masks into the community. The team is preparing to put up yard signs in the 5 communities of concern beginning next week that will encourage residents to wear their mask when leaving home and remind them 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. From March 19 to June 3, the MRC has put in 1614.5 hours of service, saving the County $51,584.62. This calculation estimate takes into consideration the type of Volunteer, so one of our volunteer that is a doctor is calculated at a higher rate than one volunteers that is a student.

**Response Calls**
- WCHD held liaisons calls on Tuesday, June 2 and Friday, June 5 with units of local government, transportation, public housing, education, emergency services, first responders, law enforcement, court system, correctional facilities, and others to provide updates on disease activity, key messages, and review of pandemic response planning.
- Briefings were held with the Infection Control Healthcare Provider Group on Tuesday, June 2 and Thursday, June 4.
- Daily calls were held with the policy group 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 will shift to a partial activation at a Level 3 status on Monday, June 8th and will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm
- The EOC continues to receive donations 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 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 3, certain businesses and activities are allowed to resume with IDPH-approved safety guidance in place.

- The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity has issued guidelines for 10 different industry categories including: Manufacturing, Offices, Retail, Service Counters, Health and Fitness Centers, Personal Care Services, Outdoor Recreation, Day Camps, Youth Sports, and Restaurants and Bars. To view this guidance, go to: https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/RestoreILP3.aspx
- WHCD has issued guidance for places of worship, restaurants and bars, and childcare and youth summer programs. This guidance is attached and available on the WCHD website under the COVID-19 section for Response Partners: http://www.wchd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=750&Itemid=1350
- 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:
- Several sectors have opens with restrictions during Phase 3. When you go out in public during Phase 3, stay apart at least 6 feet and wear a handmade 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 over both the mouth and nose.
The Communities of Concern team 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.

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.

- The Community Based COVID-19 testing site at UIC Health Sciences Campus – Rockford, is open 7 days per week from 8 – 4. There were some closures this week due. The Community Based Testing Site at Auburn High School is open M-F 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Neither site requires identification. Both are FREE and will test all people, regardless of symptoms.

- Phase 3
  - The JIC continues to publish guidelines regarding the details of the phase 3 Restore Illinois plan, including:
    - Daycare
    - Youth Sports
    - Restaurants/Bars
    - Personal Care Services

- 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 promote mental health messaging for the community with resources, such as 211, to seek help if needed.

- Cleaning
  - The JIC messages regularly about what to clean during COVID-19, such as frequently touched surfaces

- Symptoms
  - Updated COVID-19 symptoms are promoted through social media and include: cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills, headache, loss of taste/smell, muscle pain, shaking with chills, and sore throat

- “Enjoy” Messaging
  - The JIC is promoting positive messaging for activities people can enjoy now that we are in phase 3 of Restore Illinois – including no cost activities.

- 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 help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by:
  - WASHING YOUR HANDS OFTEN with soap and warm water.
  - COVERING YOUR COUGH; Cough and sneeze into your upper sleeve or a tissue that you throw away.
  - CLEANING SURFACES OFTEN, increase cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
- WEARING A MASK where you are out of the house, performing essential functions.
- 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 regarding essential services in Winnebago County, email COVID19@wchd.org or view posted responses on our Home Page http://www.wchd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=682 under the Stay At Home Order.

Materials Developed and/or Shared:

**News Conferences**

- June 4, 2020 – COVID-19 is still here/Phases/Childcare and Youth Programs – YMCA Guest Speaker

**WCHD Daily Report:**

- June 1, 2020
- June 2, 2020
- June 3, 2020
- June 4, 2020
- June 5, 2020

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

- COC – Why 815 is Masking Up Campaign (06.01.2020)
- Mental Health (06.01.2020)
- Testing Site at UIC Closed on June 2 (06.01.2020)
- Daily Report (06.01.2020)
- Testing (06.02.2020)
- Donation Center (06.02.2020)
- Testing Site Closure at Auburn High School Closed at 2:30 (06.02.2020)
- Phase 3 (06.03.2020)
- Masking (06.03.2020)
- Childcare/Youth Sports Guidance (06.03.2020)
- Go Rockford Webinar for Clean Hands, Open Doors (06.03.2020)
- Testing Site at Auburn Opening at 1 (06.03.2020)
- Daily Report (06.03.2020)
- COC – Why 815 is Masking Up Campaign (06.04.2020)
- UIC Testing Site Closure (06.04.2020)
- Symptoms (06.04.2020)
- Restaurant Guidance (06.04.2020)
- News conference live (06.04.2020)
- Daily Report (06.04.2020)
- Mental Health (06.05.2020)
- Personal Care Guidance (06.05.2020)
- Cleaning (06.05.2020)
- Daily Report (06.05.2020)
- Enjoy Messaging (06.06.2020)
• Daily Report (06.06.2020)
• Testing (06.07.2020)
• Enjoy Messaging (06.07.2020)
• Daily Report (06.07.2020)

WCHD Website Updates (www.wchd.org)
  o Get Tested
  o Daily reports
  o 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,