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, fire departments, and others. WCHD continues to be in Incident Command to prepare and respond in this evolving situation.

SURVEILLANCE INFORMATION

There are now two thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven (2837) 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 eighty-five (85) deaths in our community, including residents from long-term-care facilities. Of those that have tested positive, the recovery rate is ninety-three point six percent (93.6%).

Below are details on testing in Winnebago County as of June 19, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Testing Results for Winnebago County*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,737</td>
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</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 nineteen (19) congregated settings. One (1) congregate setting was removed from the list. 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 congregated 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 entertainment venues and indoor dining. Continues to educated organizations/businesses in ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in their facilities.

The **WCHD Congregate Strike Team** continues to work with facilities to provide trainings and education. Testing kits are provided to facilities upon request. Beth Urso continues to partner with Chief Corl to lead this Congregate Strike Team.

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 put up over 400 yard signs in the 5 communities of concern to 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.

**Response Calls**
- WCHD did not hold a liaison call this week. At this time, a liaison call will occur on an as needed basis. The weekly liaison reports will continue to be issued with updates in the response.
- A briefings was held with the Infection Control Healthcare Provider Group on Tuesday, June 16 and from this point forwarded will only be held as needed.
- The policy group held calls three times a week 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 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 and 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
- 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 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](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, Annual Township Meetings and has shared IDPH guidance on outdoor visitation for long term care facilities. This 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)
- 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, Rockford Area Visitors and Convention Bureau, Transform Rockford, and University of College of Medicine at Rockford.

**Key Messages:**

- When you go out in public, stay apart at least 6 feet and wear a handmade 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.
    - “Face or space”
“Thank you”
“How to mask”

- **Testing**
  - COVID-19 Community Based Triage, Testing, and Transfer 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.
  - 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.

- **Phase 3**
  - **Enjoy Messaging**
    - The JIC is promoting positive messaging for activities people can enjoy now that we are in phase 3 of Restore Illinois.
    - “You hold the key”

- **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

- **Juneteenth**
  - The JIC shared messaging about celebrating Juneteenth safely from the C.O.C. team.

- **Father’s Day**
  - The JIC shared messaging about celebrating Father’s Day. The messages promote social distancing, wearing a mask in public and around vulnerable populations, and gathering in groups of 10 or fewer.

- **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.

- **Recovery Rate**
  - The JIC has put out clarifying messaging to define the recovery rate per IDPH’s metrics.

- **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

- 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 15, 2020
  - Contact Tracing positions
o Ordinance  
o IHSA Guidance  
o Annual meeting municipality guidance  
o Phase 4

WCHD Daily Report:
- June 15, 2020
- June 16, 2020
- June 17, 2020
- June 18, 2020
- June 19, 2020

Social Media Messages/infographics (https://www.facebook.com/WinnebagoCountyHealth/)
Monday 6/15
- New job postings
- Get tested if in a large group
- Recovery rate
- News conference

Tuesday 6/16
- How to mask
- Sector guidance link to website
- Mental health

Wednesday 6/17
- Testing Sites
- Symptoms
- Job postings

Thursday 6/18
- COVID-19 Donation Center
- You hold the key
- Face or space
- C.O.C. masking

Friday 6/19
- Juneteenth
- Father’s Day
- Cleaning
- Testing sites
- Thank you for masking

Saturday 6/20
- Father’s Day
- Enjoy phase 3
- Job postings
- National Refugee Day

Sunday 6/21
- Testing
- Happy Father’s Day

WCHD Website Updates (www.wchd.org)
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,