Liaison Report – COVID 19 – April 17, 2020

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. WCHD continues to be in Incident Command to prepare and respond in this evolving situation.

SURVEILLANCE and INFORMATION TO HEALTHCARE PROVIDER COMMUNITY

There are now ninety-three (163) 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 seven (9) deaths in our community, including residents from long-term-care facilities.

Below are details on testing in Winnebago County as of April 17, 2020. Private laboratory information is provided voluntarily by hospital and clinic partners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Testing for Winnebago County*</th>
<th>Number of Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>1176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Tests</td>
<td>2046</td>
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*Note: Data are provisional as of 4/17/2020 and are subject to change. Number of negative tests may be higher than reported, as healthcare providers are voluntarily reporting negative results.

Health Department Disease Investigation staff continue to contact all individuals who are tested for COVID-19 to review isolation/quarantine directions and monitor all contacts to positive cases for development of symptoms.

Locations of concern are identified on the daily report and currently include 3 long term care facilities and a shelter.

WCHD held liaison calls on April 14 and April 17 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.

Daily briefings were held with the Infection Control Healthcare Provider Group.
Daily calls were held with the policy group to discuss local policy decisions and processes for the response.

The Data Intelligence Group continued to work on modeling for the next phase of the pandemic.

IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) and IEMA (Illinois Emergency Management Agency) are in a unified command.

The National Guard and the Winnebago County Emergency Operations Center are working to open COVID-19 triage center. The center will be led by the University of Illinois and will provide region wide drive thru testing at no charge to the patient.

The EOC announced a donation collection site for essential items, including handmade masks and PPE donations.

Essential services should 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.

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

The Joint Information Center (JIC) was staffed with representatives from WCHD, City of Rockford, Rockford University, Rockford Area Visitors and Convention Bureau, Transform Rockford, and University of College of Medicine at Rockford.

Key Messages:

- Stay Home, Save Lives.
  - Under the Executive Order #18 issued by the Governor, the general public is directed **Stay Home through April 30** to decrease the risk of exposure.
  - The State issued an #ALLINILLINOIS campaign. The JIC is pushing it out through area Public Information Officers, social media, and the website at: [http://www.wchd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=756&Itemid=1354](http://www.wchd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=756&Itemid=1354)
  - Stay home as much as possible and only go out for essentials

- When you do go out in public for essentials, 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.
  - On April 3, 2020, Governor Pritzker encouraged the general public to wear handmade masks or bandanas when out of the house performing essential functions.
  - The JIC is encouraging essential workers to wear masks. Instructions on how to make handmade masks were shared with essential business owners/managers

- Celebrate together while staying apart
  - Stay home and celebrate (holidays, birthday, etc.) with those in your household
Celebrate with other friends and family virtually (call or video chat)

- The Donation Center is open and the JIC is promoting donations
- The JIC is working with local agencies and community members to create COVID-19 materials in multiple languages and disseminate them appropriately.
- 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.
- Persons over the age of 60 years and persons with chronic medical conditions are at greatest risk.
- 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.
- The Winnebago County Emergency Operations Center is working with National Guard and the University of Illinois to set up and establish a COVID-19 Triage Site. Patient information and marketing materials are being created.
- IN ADDITION TO STAYING HOME, 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
- April 13, 2020 – Donations Center, Alternative Housing, Alternate Care Sites
- April 16, 2020 – Social Distancing and Modeling, Healthcare is Essential – follow up on chronic conditions

WCHD Daily Report
- April 13, 2020
- April 14, 2020
- April 15, 2020
- April 16, 2020
- April 17, 2020

Social Media Messages/infographics (https://www.facebook.com/WinnebagoCountyHealth/)
- Examples of Congregate Living Settings (04.13.2020)
- News conference live (04.13.2020)
• Stay Home, Save Lives (4.13.2020)
• Supplies Needed at the COVID-19 Donations Center (4.13.2020)
• What to Know When Making A Face Mask (4.13.2020)
• Stay Home, Save Lives (4.14.2020)
• Shared City of Rockford: Donations Center (4.14.20)
• Pandemic (4.14.2020)
• Why Wear a Mask (4.14.2020)
• Shared WREX: 8 Minutes of Expertise with Chairman Haney (4.14.20)
• Shared NAMI: Wish You Were Here (4.14.20)
• Stay Home, Save Lives (4.14.2020)
• Stay Home (4.14.20)
• Shared WIRF: Behind the curtain (4.14.20)
• Shared City of Rockford: All In Illinois (4.15.20)
• Cleaning During COVID-19 (4.15.20)
• Stay Home, Complete Census (4.15.20)
• Running Essential Errands (4.15.2020)
• Winnebago County Spotlight (04.16.2020)
• Stay Home, Complete Census (4.16.20)
• News conference live (04.16.2020)
• Stay Home, Save Lives (4.16.2020)
• The virus doesn’t care that you’re bored (4.17.2020)
• Health Care Visits are Essential (4.17.2020)

WCHD Website Updates (www.wchd.org)
  o COVID-19 Donations Page
  o Daily reports
  o News releases

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.