

DMMC Mayors (Managers copied):

For Mayors unable to attend today's conference call with the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) on the COVID-19 pandemic the following summary is provided:

- DCHD provided national, state, and County COVID-19 case data. The [DCHD COVID-19 Dashboard](#) was reviewed and used to show that the overall COVID case count in DuPage County is rising. There are now over 321,000 cases in Illinois and 8,997 deaths since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, with a 96% recovery rate both statewide and in DuPage County.
- Since the start of the Pandemic, the average age for a case in DuPage is 43 years old; in the last two weeks the average age for a case in DuPage is 41 years old.
- DCHD talked about a sharp increase of cases in the past two weeks in neighboring states, including Wisconsin and Iowa.
- Overall, cases in DuPage County are rising, with the 7 day rolling average of new cases currently at 156 per day.
- DCHD reported that new cases continue to rise in the 20-39 year old population and in the 40-59 year old population.
- DCHD shared data on outbreaks by setting. Overall, long-term care/assisted living facilities have had the most number of outbreaks. In the past 2 weeks, a significant number of outbreaks at restaurants was reported.
- The Community Transmission level for DuPage is currently moderate.
- DCHD showcased their weekly influenza reports. Last week saw no influenza associated ICU admissions.
- DCHD displayed data on school absenteeism. The Health Department is currently receiving absenteeism reports from 33.7 percent of public and private schools in DuPage County. The data shows low levels of absences due to COVID-19 like symptoms/illness.
- DCHD stated that there is a possibility that Region 8 will be on the state's warning list (orange) next week.
- DCHD talked about their Business Response Team and highlighted that they have assisted over 850 businesses in DuPage County. They also highlighted their School Response Team, which assists schools, parents, and teachers with COVID guidance.
- DCHD talked about contact tracing efforts. So far, 18,138 cases have been investigated/closed as of October 6th, and DCHD has hired 143 additional staff to assist in these efforts.
- The ongoing communication and messaging partnership between DCHD and DMMC municipalities was highlighted, with online ads, billboards, laundromat advertisements, and social media ads being discussed.
- In response to a question about the reporting of COVID deaths, DCHD stated that there has been no change in the reporting procedure of what qualifies as a COVID-related death.
- A question was asked about restaurant closures and outbreaks affecting different areas of the restaurant (back of house, front of house, customers, etc.) DCHD stated that they will provide as much information on outbreak by setting as possible.
- In response to a question about life expectancy and COVID, DCHD stated that while the average age of death from COVID is 80 years old, they are seeing deaths among different age groups, including the recent death of a 40 year old man with no known preexisting conditions.
- In response to a question about antigen testing, DCHD stated that right now a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or molecular COVID test is the gold standard and that there are still questions on

the accuracy of antigen testing. DCHD stated that they are not recommending widespread deployment of antigen testing at this time.

- In response to a question about why COVID cases in Illinois continue to rise, DCHD stated that social gatherings are a major source of outbreaks, including those who attend a gathering and spread COVID while being asymptomatic.

The next County Health Department call is scheduled for Monday, October 19th at 10:00 AM.

Sincerely,

Daniel Knickelbein, AICP

Transportation Project Manager



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