

January 6, 2021

Update to Will County Board of Health, Will County Board, County Executive and agency staff.
Update will include only new or enhanced activities and updated information.

- **Will County numbers-** As of today Will County is reporting 54,765 positive COVID cases and 751 deaths. The number of positive cases includes molecular (PCR) and rapid antigen tests.
- **Illinois Stats-** As of today, Illinois has just under 1 million positive cases- 999,288 and 17,096 deaths. The state's positivity rate has slightly risen to 9.9%, Will County's, 12.3%, and the Region 7 positivity rate is 10.9%.
- **Hospital data-** IDPH is reporting 3928 COVID-19 patients in hospitals across Illinois, 812 in the ICU, and 451 on ventilators.
- **Masking-**The previous mask mandate established through an emergency rule via the *Control of Communicable Disease Code* expired January 3, 2021; however, a subsequent emergency rule was filed January 4 for a 150-day extension.
- **Staffing-** Since my last report, we have one new positive case in the agency, at our CHC.
- **Mass Vaccination Plan (MVP)-** We were expecting a shipment of vaccine today, however there was some sort of error at the state or Pfizer level, and we did not receive it. According to our contacts at IDPH, they are expediting a shipment to us in the next day or two. Anticipated is the 2nd dose intended for our area hospitals that received our first allotment. The hospitals were notified and will be updated as we learn more information.

As reported last week, WCHD now has a registration survey for anyone interested in obtaining the COVID vaccine. We can sort the demographics on the back end, and contact individuals when it is their turn to make an appointment for vaccination. This is not to make an appointment, it is to aid us in determining how many people and in what demographics, is interested in receiving the vaccine. You need to register, then when it is your turn (determined by the phases) we will contact you to make an appointment. If you would like information on the phases, here is the link to the ACIP information on CDC's website. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>

Make sure you provide the correct email and phone number for us to contact you. Depending on what phase you are in, you may receive a call in a few days, a few weeks, a couple months, or longer. The link to this registration survey is on our website and social media, along with what group(s) we are vaccinating currently, and what group(s) are next in line. We will be completing vaccinations in Phase 1a at multiple sites, including the Health Department at 501 Ella Avenue. We are working to streamline the vaccination process by engaging as many community partners as possible. So far, we are working with groups such as the Will County Dental Society, First Responder community, ROE, Lewis University, University of St. Francis, some large retailers, and some of our energy companies in Will Counties. Jewel will be working as a provider on behalf of the WCHD, beginning with two stores, ultimately offering the vaccine in many more locations throughout the county. We have also been approached by some

pharmacy groups for the same purpose. We also hope to engage the assistance of community physician providers- if you know of any interested in receiving and providing the vaccine, they can find details and instructions at the following link:

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/immunization/icare>

LHDs have been tasked with vaccinating millions of people across the country. This is an unprecedented task, so we ask for everyone's patience. I, as well as other Executive Directors throughout the state have voiced our concerns with IDPH, asking for a state plan and federal plan that provides more resources. This is a global pandemic, not a small statewide epidemic, and it calls for a much larger response from both our state and federal government. Although we have no idea of funding, we are hoping we are informed soon so we can plan accordingly.

PLEASE, share our link below with everyone you know who is interested in receiving the vaccine. Also feel free to send to your partner organizations, post on your website or social media, etc. Knowing how many people are interested in receiving the vaccine (and in what phase) aids us in planning the vaccination clinics. It is important the survey is completed in its entirety. **ANYONE INTERESTED IN GETTING THE VACCINE MUST COMPLETE THE SURVEY, SCHEDULING WILL FOLLOW. This is not scheduling, the system for scheduling has not been rolled out. So far, we have received close to 40,000 responses on our survey. Please keep distributing!** Thank you for your assistance. Here is the link:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/14f1fac7773945a0a8cf99a96b3d804e?portalUrl=https://gis.willcountyillinois.com/portal>

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics-** Today, we held both a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the health department, as well as an onsite clinic for a phase 1a group out in the community. Tomorrow and Friday we are vaccinating EMS personnel at two locations- Frankfort and Plainfield.
- **Binax Rapid Test Program-** We now have 27 sites using the BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen tests.
- **Hotline-** Nothing new to report. The hotline number is 815 740-8977.
- **Normal Programming-** As I have done every year since taking on the role of Executive Director, I will give my State of the Agency address this Friday, January 8. This will be a taped presentation this year, with both the video and the script available to staff. I am still trying to work out the logistics of a question and answer session that is part of the presentation. All 38 programs are proceeding as required. As a reminder, we have a comprehensive agency resource guide providing details of our programs. If you would like copies, please email Steve Brandy at sbrandy@willcountyhealth.org