



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northern Illinois Rockford Region Public Information Officers
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This is a joint news release issued by the Northern Illinois Rockford Region Public Information Officers (NIR-PIO). NIR-PIO serves Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago Counties.

REGIONAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS ANNOUNCE ADDITIONAL CASES OF COVID-19

Northern Illinois Rockford Region – Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) confirmed a positive case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in DeKalb County.

- DeKalb County reports a resident in their 40s tested positive for COVID-19.

Other locations in the Northern Illinois Rockford Region with positive COVID-19 cases include Whiteside County (1) and Winnebago County (4). The additional case announced today from Winnebago County is a resident in their 30s. As of March 21, 2020 there are **6 positive cases** of COVID-19 in the Northern Illinois Rockford Region. Cases have occurred in ages ranging from 30s to 60s.

We expect to see additional cases in the Northern Illinois Rockford Region. The local health departments in the region, along with our healthcare system partners, continue to work closely with IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor the situation and quickly identify any potential contacts that may have been exposed.

These cases reinforce the importance of the community taking steps to prevent being exposed to and spreading the virus. The Northern Illinois Rockford Region - County Health Departments ask that the public comply with the state-wide “Stay At Home” order issue yesterday that compels residents to only leave their house for basic needs, including visiting the doctor or buying groceries, medicine, gasoline or similar supplies. Together we can slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

What The Public Can Do:

- **STAY CALM:** You are not alone in this, your community is here to support you. Talk to your friends and family and let them know if you are having concerns.
- **STAY APART:** Keep at least 6 feet away from others including while shopping. Avoid the lines by taking advantage of pick-up and delivery services for groceries and other goods.
- **STAY PUT:** Stay home. Only go out when essential.

Be mindful of those who are at greater risk for contracting this virus, including older adults and those with underlying health conditions.

Call your healthcare provider:

If you experience fever, cough, and shortness of breath (flu like symptoms), stay home and call your healthcare provider before going to a healthcare facility. Inform them of your symptoms.

Be cautious of scammers:

There have been reports of people using fears around COVID-19 to take advantage and scam others. You should be cautious about giving money to any agency claiming to be raising funds to help with COVID-19, especially if they ask for your social security and credit card information.

For more information:

Go to IDPH and CDC websites.

- <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

For general questions about COVID-19, call the IDPH hotline at 1-800-889-3931

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