



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northern Illinois Rockford Region Public Information Officers
Media Contact: Katherine O’Toole, Media Liaison, 815-720-4213
March 30, 2020

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 POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES AND 1st DEATH IN REGION

Northern Illinois Rockford Region – Today, the Northern Illinois Rockford Region reported a positive case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Ogle County and is saddened to report the 1st death of a resident in the region that tested positive for COVID-19.

- Ogle County reports a resident in their 50s tested positive for COVID-19
- Carroll County reports a resident in their 80s tested positive for COVID-19 and has died.

Other locations in the Northern Illinois Rockford Region with positive COVID-19 cases include Carroll (3), DeKalb (8), Jo Daviess (1), Stephenson (3), Whiteside County (6) and Winnebago County (14). The additional case announced today from Carroll County is a resident in their 80s. The additional two cases announced today from Whiteside County are a resident in their 50s and a resident in their 30s. The additional case announced today from Winnebago County is a resident in their 20s.

As of March 30, 2020 there are **36 positive cases** of COVID-19 in the Northern Illinois Rockford Region. Cases have occurred in ages ranging from teens to 80s. The local health departments in the region continue to work closely with IDPH to identify and notify those that may have been in close contact with the individuals who have tested positive.

With the majority of counties in the region reporting positive cases of COVID-19, the local health departments in the region want to remind the community that the best way to protect you and your family from getting sick with COVID-19 is to stay home. To slow the spread of COVID-19, it is important for everyone to take steps to prevent exposure. Stay home and only leave your house for basic needs, including visiting the doctor or buying groceries, medicine, gasoline or similar supplies. When you do go out for basic needs, stay apart at least 6 feet from others and wash your hands often, especially upon returning home.

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, and only go out when essential (buying groceries, pick-up medicine, ect).

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. Find additional information at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

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

####