



**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 UPDATE  
COMMUNITY ON ESSENTIAL WORKER SAFETY**

Northern Illinois Rockford Region – The local health departments (LHDs) in the Northern Illinois Rockford Region have collaborated to address the outbreak of COVID-19 among workers at Rochelle Foods. Through the cooperation of Rochelle Foods, over 800 employees were tested and 123 positive cases have been identified throughout the Northern Illinois Rockford region with a 14% positivity rate. The LHDs in the region have conducted contact tracing and isolated all positive cases to prevent further transmission in our communities.

Thank you to Rochelle Community Hospital and KSB Hospital Dixon who provided the testing.

Rochelle Foods has implemented recommendations to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in their facility and plans to reopen on Saturday. We encourage all workers returning to stay healthy and take action to protect yourself, your co-workers, and your workplace. This protects your family and community.

**All essential workers should take the following steps to help stay healthy and safe while at work:**

- Wear a face mask/face covering when out in public and you are unable to keep a 6 foot distance from others (when entering and exiting the building, when in hallways)
- Do not rideshare with others who do not reside in your household.
- Wear all personal protective equipment provided to you by your employer and notify them if the equipment needs to be replaced from tears and/or soil.
- Remember to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet including during lunch and breaks
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Notify your supervisor immediately if you become sick while on the job
- Do not go into work if you are sick, follow your workplace policies

**For more information:**

Go to IDPH, CDC, and OSHA websites.

- <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>

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

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