



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 PROVIDE UPDATE AS
REGION 1 IS AT WARNING FOR COVID-19**

Northern Illinois Rockford Region – On September 29, Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) implemented new COVID-19 mitigation measures for the Northern Illinois Rockford Region (**Region 1**) to take effect on Saturday, October 3. <https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/news-item.aspx?ReleaseID=22149>

The mitigation measures were implemented as Region 1 is at warning level for COVID-19 due to a positivity rate greater than 8% and increasing COVID-19 infection rates in the region. These additional prevention measures disproportionately impact local business establishments.

As we learn to co-exist with COVID-19, it is important to respect and support local businesses and each other by taking the following steps:

- **Follow local travel guidance and limit non-essential travel.**
 - Non-essential travel includes traveling for sports team and social gatherings.
- **Limit your contacts and follow the 3Ws.**
 - Keep your contacts limited to a small number. The more people from different households that gather, the greater the risk of spreading COVID-19.
 - If your children are in school, keep the playdates to those who are in your child’s class.
 - When eating with others not from your household, keep 6ft apart
- **Leave a place or gathering** where people are not masking or social distancing, or if the gathering is too large.
- **Support local businesses** by continuing to order online, carrying out, and using curbside pick-up.

For general questions about COVID-19, call the IDPH hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or DPH.sick@illinois.gov

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