

DATE: November 17, 2020
TO: DeKalb County News Media
FROM: DeKalb County Health Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Northwestern Medicine and DeKalb County Health Department
Urge the Community to Take Action

With increased rates of COVID-19 transmission, Northwestern Medicine and DeKalb County Health Department are urging community members and businesses to follow Public Health guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As of today, there are 4,207 people in DeKalb County who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Regionally, the test positivity 7-day rolling average has risen to 20%.

“Now is not the time to become complacent. Please continue to take precautions including wearing masks, hand washing and physical distancing. Although difficult during the holidays, please avoid gatherings as it will hopefully flatten the curve and move us closer to getting the virus under control,” said Michael Kulisz, DO, emergency medicine physician and Chief Medical Officer at Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital and Valley West Hospital.

Let’s work together and get back to the basics that we know work:

STAY HOME. Refrain from any non-essential activities and stay at home as much as possible. If you must go out for essential activities, such as work, to attend school, get tested for COVID-19, get a flu shot, or to shop for groceries:

- Wear a mask consistently and correctly over your nose AND mouth.
- Avoid close contact with others and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others who do not live with you.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water.

LIMIT GATHERINGS. Refrain from attending or hosting gatherings with people who do not live in your household. This includes recommendations to postpone holiday gatherings or host virtual celebrations to limit the spread of COVID-19.

LIMIT TRAVEL. As much as possible, do not engage in any non-essential travel, including vacations or trips to visit relatives or friends.

WORK FROM HOME. As much as possible, DCHD is calling on employers in DeKalb County to re-establish telework protocols for staff who are able to work from home and transition to curbside services if possible.

DeKalb County Health Department Public Health Administrator, Lisa Gonzalez said, “Over the next several weeks, it is critical that we come together as a community and take action to

help reduce further spread of the virus. We must all do our part to protect ourselves, our healthcare workers, and our community during this time.”

For more information, please visit <https://health.dekalbcounty.org/about/coronavirus/> or <https://health.dekalbcounty.org/about/covid-19-dashboard/> You can also call the DCHD COVID-19 Hotline at 815-748-2401, Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or [emailCOVID-19@dekalbcounty.org](mailto:COVID-19@dekalbcounty.org) .

Community members can also [sign up for the newsletter online](#) by visiting the DCHD website.

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