

# COVID-19 News

March 20, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DuPage County: Three Additional Cases of COVID-19**

*No additional cases in Willowbrook facility*

**DUPAGE COUNTY**—The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced three additional DuPage County residents have tested positive for coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

There are no additional cases reported at the long-term care facility (LTCF) in Willowbrook.

Since cases are identified by the county of residents, not all 46 of the cases at the LTCF are counted in the DuPage County case count. In DuPage County, there are now 57 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 39 from the LTCF. Across Illinois, cases of COVID-19 have occurred in ages 3 to 99 years.

“We continue to ask for the support of our residents to stay home as much as possible so we can reduce the spread of people who are infected and potentially suffer serious illness, including death,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director, DuPage County Health Department.

The number of cases in DuPage County can be found on the DCHD website, as well as the most up-to-date information. The number of COVID-19 cases being reported is rising quickly, partly because of the increase in testing by commercial and hospital laboratories.

Because testing is becoming more available in these labs, IDPH will prioritize testing for our most vulnerable populations, such as hospitalized patients, those who work or live in nursing homes and other congregate facilities and first responders/health care workers. Once a case in these locations is confirmed, following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, testing of all residents and staff without symptoms is not recommended. However, all precautions to prevent additional spread should be taken and staff and residents should be closely monitored for respiratory illness.

The growing number of cases also reflects the ongoing spread of disease across communities. These numbers are concerning, but not unexpected and the more robust information will allow us to better understand and track the size and scope of the outbreak and strengthen prevention and response efforts.

**-More-**

**-Page 2-**

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms such as a cough or difficulty breathing, call your doctor for advice. By calling ahead to your doctor before going in for care, you allow the medical facility to take the right steps to protect patients as well as healthcare professionals.

DuPage County residents with questions or concerns about COVID-19, are asked to contact the Health Department COVID-19 Call Center at (630) 221-7030.

Finally, the DuPage County Health Department is still providing essential services.

###