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**DuPage County
Board of Health**

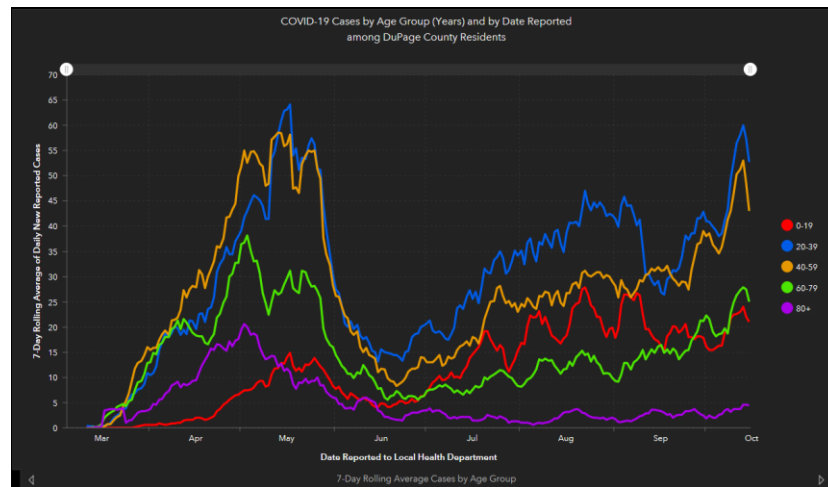
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DuPage County Experiencing Rise of COVID-19 Activity
Residents Urged to Follow Preventive Measures

DuPage County—COVID-19 activity in DuPage County is on the rise, and trending in the wrong direction which could trigger additional mitigation measures to combat a resurgence of COVID-19. Local officials urge residents to work together to slow the community transmission of COVID-19. Residents are strongly encouraged to follow personal preventive measures and stay home when they are sick.

DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) is monitoring and working to address the recent increase in persons with COVID-19, especially driven by increases among adult age groups. Between October 6 – October 13, 2020, the 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases increased by 51 percent (from 112.2 to 169.4). Most of the cases are occurring in adult age groups of 20-39 years, followed by 40-59 years, followed by 60-79 years (see graph below).



Source: www.dupagehealth.org/covid19data

Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

-More-

**STAY SAFE
DUPAGE**



DCHD is also concerned about daily census reports from hospitals in DuPage County showing a spike in patients hospitalized with COVID-19, doubling in the past week.

As DCHD works to understand the behaviors and types of exposures contributing to this concerning uptick among individual cases, “COVID fatigue” seems to be a factor influencing the increased spread. Increasingly we are receiving reports of individuals not adhering to preventive measures and overlooking the risks of gathering with friends and family from different households. During these gatherings, individuals are not wearing masks and are having long, close interactions in indoor settings; therefore, increasing their risk of transmitting the virus.

“As the weather turns colder and people begin gathering indoors, there is more opportunity for community spread. We know this virus spreads rapidly and isn’t very forgiving, especially indoors,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director at DuPage County Health Department. “We understand people are feeling tired, but we can’t let our guard down, we must remain focused on working together as a community to slow the spread of the virus and keep our friends, loved ones and neighbors safe.”

At this time, additional mitigations have not been imposed on the County by the State. However, County officials understand that if we do not change course, additional mitigations could be imminent and will further impact residents, local businesses and their employees.

DCHD reminds everyone to keep following public health guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often;
- Wear a mask whenever outside your home;
- Watch your distance, staying at least 6 feet from people outside of your immediate household and avoiding crowds; and
- Stay home if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have been in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19.
- Additional information is available at:
www.dupagehealth.org/covid19

DCHD wants residents to be aware that businesses, facilities, and organizations open to the public in Illinois require all individuals on the premises to cover their nose and mouth with a face covering. These sites have the authority and responsibility to request customers leave the premises if not wearing a face covering as required.

People with COVID-19 need to self-isolate at home (except for medical visits) for at least ten days. Also, people who have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 need to self-quarantine for at least 14 days while monitoring their symptoms. Close contacts are advised to seek COVID-19 testing five to seven days after exposure. Testing negative during the 14-day quarantine does not supersede the need to quarantine for 14 days; a close contact cannot “test out of” their full quarantine period.

“If individuals do not follow these important guidelines, they not only put themselves at risk but also their community. Furthermore, these actions prolong the current health crisis and have the potential to force additional restrictions on local schools and businesses who are diligently working to keep their employees and students safe,” said Ayala.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) provides specific guidance for individuals and businesses on precautions to take before participating in personal and social activities, such as dining at a restaurant, hosting a gathering, or using a fitness center. Information on these precautions can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/personal-social-activities.html> and <https://dceocovid19resources.com/>.

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