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January 8, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Health Department Reminds Residents to Wear Masks and Practice Physical Distance**

**DuPage County**—As of Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, Governor Pritzker’s [emergency COVID-19 rule](#) to continue statewide mask and gathering size requirements in Illinois went into effect for the next 150 days. COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms and do not know that they are infected. That is why it is important for everyone to practice physical distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from other people) and wearing masks in public settings. DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) reminds residents to continue following these public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

“Many of us are filled with hope as the vaccine rollout moves forward and people are vaccinated. However, it is still important that we continue to follow these mitigations to keep us headed in the right direction while we work to ensure the next priority groups, and ultimately all DuPage County residents are vaccinated,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department.

The emergency rule states any individual who is over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering (a mask or cloth face covering) shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a face covering when in a public place and unable to maintain at least a six-foot physical distance. This requirement applies whether in an indoor space, such as a store, or in an outdoor space.

Public health measures continue to be vital in preventing infection and transmission of the virus. Residents should continue to do their part in preventing the spread of COVID-19 in DuPage County by:

- Wearing a mask whenever outside your home or with anyone not from your household;

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.

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- Watching your distance, staying at least 6 feet from people outside of your immediate household and avoiding in-person gatherings;
- Washing your hands often; and
- Staying home if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have been in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19, and contacting your healthcare provider for appropriate evaluation, testing, and care.

The Health Department is committed to ensuring vaccine will be available through as many locations as possible, as the vaccine supply increases and becomes more widely available. For information about DuPage County vaccine planning and related updates, please visit [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine).

DuPage County COVID-19 information and resources can be found at [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19).

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