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January 26, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Region 8 Moves to Tier 1 Mitigations

Health Department Urges Residents Stay Vigilant and Practice the 3Ws

DuPage County— Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced Region 8, which includes DuPage and Kane Counties, advanced to [Tier 1](#) effective today. DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) urges residents to stay vigilant and continue practicing the 3Ws to protect themselves from COVID-19 and the variants that have been identified in Illinois.

“This progress is a result of the commitment of our residents who have followed the mitigation guidelines to protect themselves, families, and community,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department. “Although we are headed in the right direction, we cannot let our guard down now. We should all continue to wear our masks, watch our distance, wash our hands, avoid large gatherings, and get the vaccine when it is our turn. This is particularly important as new variants, which seem to spread more rapidly, circulate.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [multiple variants of the COVID-19 virus](#) have been documented in the United States and globally during this pandemic. As of Jan. 25, 2021, nine cases have been identified in Illinois. These variants seem to spread more easily and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19. Currently, there is no evidence that these variants cause more severe illness or increased risk of death. However, an increase in the number of cases will put more strain on health care resources, lead to more hospitalizations, and potentially more deaths.

The Tier 1 Resurgence Mitigations allow DuPage County restaurants to offer indoor service limited to the lesser of 25 guests or 25 percent capacity per room. Tables must be at least six feet apart, all patrons must be seated, and wear a mask when not eating. Indoor service is limited to two hours and parties must not be larger than four people. Additionally,

**-More-
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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.

organized sports must follow mitigation measures set forth by All Sport Guidelines for practices and competitions.

To achieve the goal of moving back to Phase 4 from Tier 1, the test positivity rate should be less than or equal to 6.5 percent for three consecutive days (7-day average) and staffed ICU bed availability should be greater than or equal to 20 percent for three consecutive days (7-day average), and there should be no sustained increase in COVID-19 patients in hospital (7-day average for 7 of 10 days).

For complete information on the Restore Illinois Mitigation Plan, including the guidelines for each Tier and Phase, visit <https://illinoisgov.force.com/coronavirus/s/restore-illinois-mitigation-plan>.

For DuPage County COVID-19 information and resources, visit www.dupagehealth.org/covid19.

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