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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.

April 9, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DCHD Officials Urge Residents to Remain Vigilant and Practice Preventive Measures as COVID-19 Transmission Increases in DuPage County

DuPage County—DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) continues to closely monitor COVID-19 key indicators to identify early but significant increases in COVID-19 activity throughout the county. This week, health officials are reporting a concerning rise in COVID-19 daily cases, positivity rate, and related hospitalizations. Residents are reminded to stay vigilant and continue practicing COVID-19 safety precautions to protect themselves and their community.

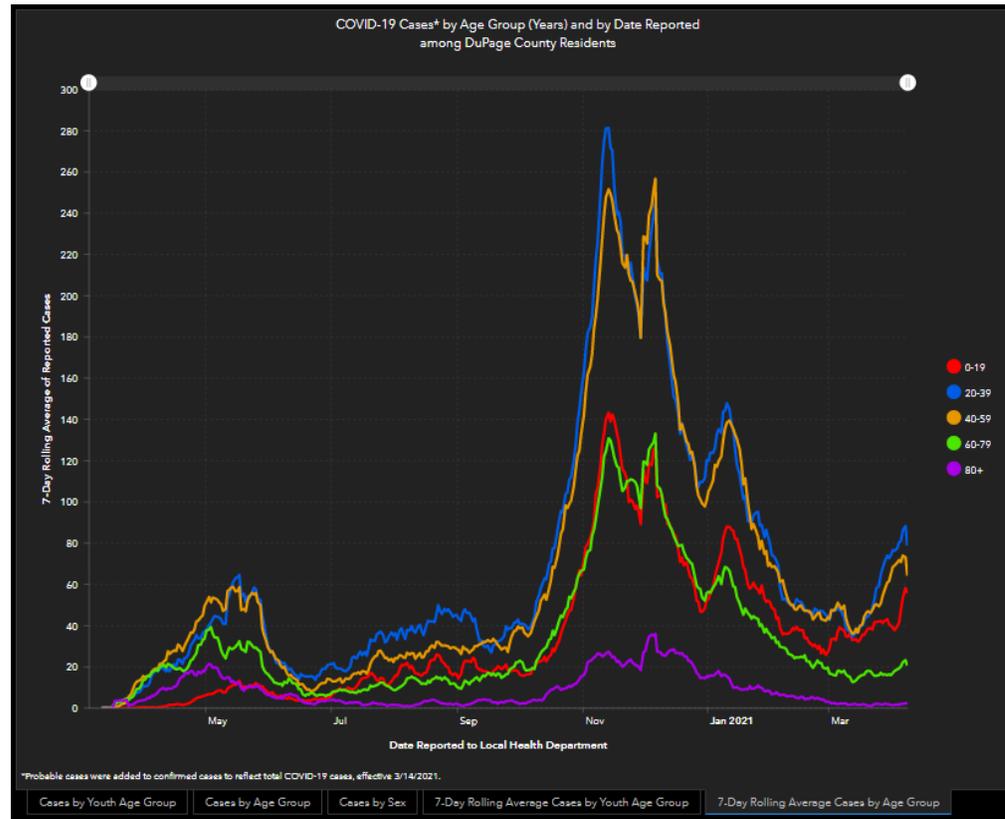
“We are very concerned about this uptick and that our residents may have a false sense of security due to the vaccine now being available. While the number of people vaccinated increases every day, the fact is that the pandemic is not yet over, and we still have about 400,000 eligible residents to vaccinate in our county. We each have the ability and responsibility to keep each other safe and healthy, so we must continue to practice the preventive measures that will protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our community. Everyone, including those who have received a COVID-19 vaccine should continue to wear a mask, physically distance, avoid large in-person gatherings, and wash your hands,” shared Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department.

Over the past two weeks, per the [DCHD COVID-19 Dashboard](#), the number of COVID-19 cases reported per day in DuPage County increased by 31 percent with a seven-day rolling average of 168.7 cases on Mar. 25 to a seven-day rolling average of 221.6 cases reported on Apr. 8. In the past week, the test positivity seven-day rolling average in the county has increased by more than 1 percentage point and now stands at 6.9% as of April 6. The increases in these metrics indicate the transmission of this virus is rising throughout the county. Of further concern, COVID-19-related hospitalizations are rising as well. Today, local hospitals reported 93 COVID-19 related hospitalizations in daily census reports, representing the highest count since Feb. 23.

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The highest case increases are observed in youth aged 5-19 years as well as adults in the 20 to 39-year-old and 40 to 59-year-old age groups. Additionally, DCHD is closely monitoring reports of COVID-19 variants in the county. These variants are classified as COVID-19 variants of concern (VOC) as they spread more easily and quickly than other variants and likely cause more severe disease based on hospitalizations and case-fatality rates.



Source: www.dupagehealth.org/covid19data Accessed on 4/9/2021.

As the virus continues to spread, DCHD urges residents to continue practicing the critical measures that will limit the spread of this virus and its variants. These critical measures include wearing a well-fitted mask consistently and correctly, physical distancing, avoiding in-person gatherings, washing hands frequently, isolating or quarantining when necessary, and getting the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are eligible.

Currently, Region 8, which includes DuPage and Kane counties, has a test positivity 7-day rolling average of 7.2 percent as of Apr. 6. This regional test positivity currently represents the highest in the state. For more information on Illinois Regional COVID-19 data, visit <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=1>.

For DuPage County COVID-19 case data and information, visit www.dupagehealth.org/covid19data. ###