



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Janet Hill
309-558-2881

Rock Island County returns to state warning status

Rock Island County has returned to warning status under the Illinois Department of Public Health's county-level COVID-19 risk metrics, which indicates an increased risk of the virus.

The warning status is for the week ending Sept. 12. The metrics allow counties to move in and out of warning status. The Quad Cities has been a COVID-19 hotspot in Illinois for many months. Counties meeting set targets are in blue on the state's county-level map, while counties that are not meeting the targets are shown in orange

"We strongly suspected that we would return to orange," said Nita Ludwig, administrator of the Rock Island County Health Department. "We are seeing rising case counts and test positivity rates."

The county's positivity rate was 11 percent last week, which is the timeframe when the warning was triggered. The county was in warning status for the week of Aug. 23-29 when the positivity rate was 8.1 percent.

Positivity is just one of eight different indicators being used. We have positivity, number of new cases/per 100,000 and number of tests performed. (A complete list of the eight are below.)

"Being in warning status is just that: a warning," Ludwig said. "We are heading in the wrong direction. Residents all across the Quad Cities should be wearing a mask, watching their distance and washing their hands. We know the rules are different in Iowa, but your efforts should be the same everywhere you go."

At this point, Region 2 that includes Rock Island County is not facing mitigation efforts that other regions have experienced. If too many counties in the region go into warning status, the entire region could face restrictions that include reduced indoor dining and hours for bars and restaurants, among others.

The eight metrics for going into warning status are:

- New cases
- Test positivity
- COVID-like-illness (CLI) emergency department visits
- CLI admissions
- Clusters
- New deaths
- Intensive care unit availability
- Number of tests

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