

3/24/2020

Coronavirus Update - Governor Pritzker Daily Press Conference

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 250 new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Illinois, including four deaths; a Chicago resident in his 50s, two Cook County residents both in their 60s, and a DuPage County resident in her 90s.

Grundy County is now reporting a case. Currently, IDPH is reporting a total of 1,535 cases in 32 counties in Illinois. The age of cases ranges from younger than one to 99 years. Cases by county can be found on the IDPH website, as well as a list of local health departments who will have the most up-to-date information.

- 54% of our confirmed cases are white, 33% are black, 5% are categorized as Asian, we have 11% of Latino or Hispanic ethnicity.
- 16% of COVID cases have resulted in hospitalization, 4% have resulted in ICU admission. Of the lives lost, we see that 92% of those lives lost are in those older than 60.

The Governor's daily press conference focused mostly on expanded testing and the continued need for PPE. The Governor stressed that testing is not only important for treatment, but also in understanding the scale and severity of the infections. Increased testing will inform public health officials on how to isolate outbreaks and continue to flatten the curve.

Testing

- Illinois was among the first states to bring our own state laboratories online, providing us with critical early capacity.
 - The state has increased testing from 50 tests per day to 2,000 tests per day, including running 600 tests per day at the state labs in Chicago, Springfield, and Carbondale.
- On Sunday and Monday we began drive-thru testing at state and federal facilities.
- The Illinois National Guard opened the first entirely state-run drive-through testing facility in northwest Chicago.
- The Harwood heights community-based testing site is a site designed specially to collect specimens from our healthcare workers and first responders and at current capacity they can collect 250 specimens per day.
- Senior members of the US Department of Health and Human Services were out to survey that site this last weekend and they called our setup a national model that they hope to replicate in other states.

Over the last few days federal HHS has also set up sites in Bolingbrook, Northlake, and Joliet with private partners Walgreens and Walmart. These sites can run close to 100 tests per day as is and up to 250 each with expanded staffing here in Illinois.

Our residents also have access to four commercial labs and 15 hospital labs that in total average about 1,500 tests per day on top of our state lab output, in addition to the 600 tests at state labs.

IDPH is working with some hospitals to stand up their own new labs, providing positive specimens to hospitals for validation, so they can come online faster.

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North Shore Hospital and Southern Illinois University are expanding their capacity with additional equipment and supplies, with an expected additional capacity of 2,805 daily tests in two weeks. That will bring our in-state testing to more than 4,300 per day.

Flattening the Curve

The Governor shared projections on what our infection rates would have been if he had not taken action to limit gatherings, practice social distancing, closing schools, and shutting down non-essential portions of the economy.

Below is a graphic that was shown in the press conference that shows the worst-case scenario of what Illinois could expect if the mitigatory actions were not taken by the Governor. The gauged charts show current utilization vs capacity. The scenarios below that show where those projections would be had no action been taken over a two-week period.



Supplies from Federal Government and the Defense Production Act

The White House notified the state that they will be sending 300 more ventilators and 300,095 masks from FEMA in the coming days.

The Governor also urged the President to invoke the Defense Production Act, arguing that the country needs the full might of the federal government to obtain and allocate things like ventilators and PPE.