



McHenry County Department of Health
2200 N. Seminary Avenue
Woodstock, IL 60098
(815) 334-4510
www.mcdh.info

May 9, 2020

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Public Health
Administrator

McHenry County Council of Governments
C/O: Mayor Wayne Jett, Chairman of the Mayor Caucus
620 Dakota Street, Suite 251
Crystal Lake, IL 60012

Dear Mayor Jett:

In response to the McHenry County Municipalities' and the McHenry County Council of Governments' proposal to Governor Pritzker on his Restore Illinois plan, please find the information below you requested from the McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) regarding contact tracing.

The MCDH is a certified local health department by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and is the local health authority for McHenry County. As a certified local health department, MCDH is responsible for the surveillance and investigation of any dangerously contagious or infectious disease that occurs in McHenry County. The Illinois Administrative Code requires that any suspected or diagnosed case of a contagious, infectious, or communicable disease be reported to the local health authority, and then MCDH thoroughly investigates the case and the contacts to the case and reports each completed investigation to IDPH within the specified timeframe designated for each disease.

MCDH has policies and procedures in place to conduct surveillance and investigations of any dangerously contagious or infectious disease that may be identified in McHenry County. The timeframe set by IDPH to begin an infectious disease investigation of a COVID-19 case is within 24 hours of diagnosis. Since March 10, 2020, when the first COVID-19 case was identified in McHenry County, the MCDH has been able to begin its investigations and contact tracing and monitoring of COVID-19 cases within 24 hours of diagnosis. Currently the MCDH has 15 people conducting contact tracing along with three epidemiologists overseeing disease surveillance and monitoring.

At current levels of transmission, MCDH is meeting the initiation of investigations and contact tracing outlined by IDPH in no less than 90% of its identified COVID-19 cases. As McHenry County meets the criteria to move into Phase III (as outlined in the Restore Illinois plan), MCDH will need to continuously evaluate its staffing needs to ensure its capacity to conduct investigations and contact tracing within the specified guidelines is not exceeded.

Sincerely,

Melissa Adamson



McHenry County Council of Governments
c/o Mayor Wayne Jett, Chairman of the Mayor Caucus
620 Dakota Street, Suite 251
Crystal Lake, IL 60012

May 11, 2020

McHenry County Council of Governments,

Northwestern Medicine (NM) McHenry Hospital and NM Huntley Hospital are proud members of the McHenry County community and take great pride in providing care for its residents. NM is complying with IDPH guidelines to prepare for future COVID surge.

Thank you for trusting Northwestern Medicine with the care of your residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kumar Nathan'.

Kumar Nathan, MD
President, Huntley Hospital

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Rave'.

Nick Rave
President, McHenry Hospital

Mayor Wayne Jett
City of McHenry
333 S. Green St.
McHenry, IL 60050

May 11, 2020

Dear Mayor Jett,

We would like to provide information regarding Mercyhealth's stability and our COVID-19 surge capacity in the Illinois region we serve.

Overall census at our Illinois hospitals has been low due to the cancellation of elective surgeries and the reduction of in-person visits to protect our communities. Our volumes have been down by 80% and we have not seen the surge of COVID-19 inpatient or outpatient volumes as expected. This, combined with the stay-at-home order has caused an overall decrease in census at all of our Illinois hospitals including Mercyhealth Harvard Hospital. Further, we have not had an increase in COVID-19-like illnesses in the last month.

Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center - Harvard is a Critical Access Hospital with 10 available medical, 3 ICU beds. Our average daily census is currently three inpatients of all diagnoses and can easily surge to 13 beds. This would be a surge of over 400%. Our Emergency Department currently is seeing an average of eight patients per day and can easily surge to 40 patients per day utilizing our surge plan, if needed.

COVID-19 has not challenged our ability to care for our community for illnesses of any kind.

Thank you,



Theresa Hollinger, RN, MSN, MHA, NEA-BC
Chief Nursing Officer,
Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center- Harvard
Mercyhealth Harvard Care Center
Mercyhealth Harvard Clinic South
Mercyhealth Harvard Hospital Specialty Clinic



COVID-19 Testing Guidance

Anyone with COVID-19-like illness or symptoms can get a test, even without a doctor's order.

As testing capacity expands, testing is now available for people who:

- Have COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath and fever) **OR**
- Have a risk factor, such as
 - Contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19
 - A compromised immune system or a serious chronic medical condition

Testing is also available for those with or without symptoms who:

- Work in a health care facility
- Work in correctional facilities, such as jails or prisons
- Serve as first responders, such as paramedics, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement officers or firefighters
- Support critical infrastructure, such as workers in grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, gas stations, public utilities, factories, childcare and sanitation

A list of testing sites can be found online at coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/testing-sites or dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid-19-testing-sites.