



Fulton County COVID Task Force

Fulton County, Illinois

January 13, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

-COVID 19 UPDATES – FULTON COUNTY-

The Fulton County Health Department advised 273 new cases were reported in the span of three days last week and record highs of positivity rate and cases. Also, six more Fulton County residents died of COVID-19 related deaths during that time. As of Friday, January 7th, Fulton County has 7229 total positive cases with 564 current active cases. 6,476 cases resulted in recovery while 99 have died. The seven-day case rate per 100,000 as of Thursday, January 6th is 1,435.64. while the positivity rate during the same period is 10.03 percent.

“Right now, we’re seeing numbers of new cases and positivity that we have never seen during this entire pandemic. The numbers of new cases is starting to affect keeping businesses open, staffing at emergency response agencies and countless other ripple effects. We’ve not seen this large of cases in the entire two years of the pandemic. With these numbers we’re seeing a decrease of beds in area hospitals not to mention the impacts on hospital staffing. Imagine going to the hospital for a heart attack or serious injury and having to wait for care. That’s the impact a lot of people don’t think about.” Says Roger Clark Fulton County Board Chairman.

“When the pandemic started, our biggest concern is what we are seeing happening right now across the nation but especially here in our county,” said Canton Mayor Kent McDowell. “I cannot stress enough how important it is to get vaccinated. It literally can mean the difference between life and death, as the numbers show. If we want to make it through this, we have got to come together, get vaccinated and do our due diligence for ourselves and each other. We need to protect ourselves and each other by getting vaccinated.”

“In the past 60 days we’ve seen some of the highest numbers for loss of life due to COVID-19 within our County Residents. In the past 60 days we’ve had record cases and deaths, but none of those who passed from COVID-19 were vaccinated. Residents

need to get vaccinated. That's the most effective tool in this fight. Let's keep our community safe, people working and healthy. Getting vaccinated is the tool in this fight." Says Steve Hines Fulton County Coroner.

Additionally, the Illinois Department of Health has announced changes in the contact tracing program. The Illinois Department of Public Health has determined that centralizing contact tracing may help address the high volume of cases for all health departments. As of December 28th, all COVID-19 cases have received an auto message informing them of quarantine/isolation information. As of January 13th, all cases will be sent to the Illinois Department of Public Health Surge Center to help automate the information provided so individuals have quick access to the information. Other states have used this process previously to help reduce call volumes for the local health departments. Moving forward if you need letters for release from work you will need to request them from this system. If you don't participate in the assessments offered, it will not generate release letters. The local Fulton County Health Department cannot issue release letters as they will be part of the centralized contact tracing efforts. Surge Center will be taking over all calls, but if you don't get a call, that doesn't mean you don't need to isolate or quarantine. If there is no call, you still have the ability to follow CDC and IDPH guidelines. Residents are strongly encouraged to do follow those guidelines to protect yourself and others. Those utilizing home tests should also be aware of precautions to take and should be following them.

The County of Fulton has launched a website to help keep residents informed of specific impacts within Fulton County. This page is designed to be the informational hub for the Fulton County COVID-19 response, press releases, information for area residents, and links to CDC and IDPH information. This page will be updated as new information becomes available.

The page can be found at www.fultonco.org and clicking on "Fulton County COVID-19 Information Site".

Additionally, the Fulton County Health Department is publishing daily updates on their social media page: <https://www.facebook.com/FultonCHD/>. Any urgent alerts will also be posted on that page and the Fulton County ESDA page at <https://www.facebook.com/fultoncountyesda/>

The Illinois Department of Public Health has set up a hotline and email for the public to use for general questions. The hotline number is 1-800-889-3931 and the email is DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV.

For current up to date information, please go to www.CDC.gov or www.DPH.Illinois.gov. Fulton County Health Department staff can be reached after hours for emergency issues by calling the Fulton County Sheriff's Department at 309-547-2277.

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