

Police Department



Memo

Date: May 15, 2020
To: Mayor and Trustees
Cc: Village Administrator Keim
From: Deputy Chief Geoff Guttschow
Subject: Board Update- Restore Illinois

I wanted to take a few moments to update the Board on some information that has come my way, as it relates to the current status of the Restore Illinois Plan. Much of the information is very positive; however, some statistics have come out that you may find surprising, and that as elected leaders should be aware of.

Yesterday, I participated in the weekly statewide law enforcement COVID19 teleconference, hosted by the Illinois State Police. One of the guest speakers was the State's Division Chief of Infectious Diseases, who reviewed the benchmarks each region must hit to transition to the next phase of the plan. Additionally, she provided the latest data on where each region stands, which I will highlight later in this document.

As a recap, the entire state was divided into four regions (southern, central, north-central, north-east), and all are currently in phase two of the Governor's five phase plan to reopen the state. The state will start to move into the next phases in a regional manner, dependent on each individual region hitting certain targets. For a region to move into phase three, the following must be achieved, in summary:

- ✓ The percent positivity rate (percentage of COVID19 positive tests of the total number of tests administered) of less than 20%.
- ✓ 28 day trend of a decrease in the number of positive COVID19 hospital admissions
- ✓ Satisfactory level of hospital and ICU bed med-surge capacity.

Here is how each statewide region stands in reaching these benchmarks as of yesterday:

	Positivity Rate	14 Day Decrease	14 Day Decrease in Admissions	Med-Surge Status
North-East (Antioch)	19.9%	2%	23.3%	Very limited
North-Central	8%	1.7%	46%	Adequate
Central	5.7%	.4%	45%	Adequate
Southern	7.9%	4%	47%	Adequate

As you can see from this data, each region is currently on track to move into phase three at the end of May. However, our region currently holds the greatest risk of seeing a phase two extension. IDPH believes that we will continue to trend in the direction necessary to move to phase three, however, with only 0.1% variance, any increase in percent positivity rate will result in the North-East region being left behind the rest of the state.

I am sure many of you have heard assumptions made, that we in Lake County are the victims of the more populous areas of our region (primarily Cook County and the City of Chicago). I too shared in some of those assumptions, which prompted me to reach out to a colleague, who holds the position of Director of Homeland Security within the Lake County Sheriff's Office. Through his position, he has access to data, that while not confidential, most of us in law enforcement do not have access to. To my surprise, Lake County currently leads the state in holding the highest reported positivity percentage rate, which as of this morning is 24.5%. From there, the rankings are Kane County (23.9%), Chicago (23.1%), and Cook County (20.9%). This means that while Cook County and Chicago are certainly contributing to the high regional positivity rate, it is Lake County "dragging down" the region when you take simple numbers into consideration. We are fortunate to have counties with very low positivity rates, such as McHenry and Grundy, in our region to help keep the region under the 20% mark.

One variable of recent development is that yesterday the State of Wisconsin's Safer at Home Order, was struck down by the courts. As of today, all businesses in Kenosha County can resume normal operations, including bars and restaurants. I would anticipate that with our shared border, many local Illinois residents may travel to these establishments, putting them at increased risk for contracting COVID19, which they could bring home, resulting in an uptick in the Lake County positivity rate in the coming weeks. With our region not having much variance, there is a fear that this change in Wisconsin, has the potential to result in a delay of the North-East region moving to phase 3. All we can do at this point is wait and see.

It is my hope that the above facts and figures will help bring further clarity in the current status of our area. If there are any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out and I will do my best to provide an answer.

I wish you all a safe and healthy weekend!!!!