

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Delaware County Weekly COVID-19 Updates

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The following COVID-19 update is brought to you through a collaboration of healthcare partners including Delaware County Health Department, Delaware County Emergency Management Agency, Delaware County Office of Information, and other major healthcare providers.

Last week (Aug. 19–26), Delaware County dropped to a 3.8% positive testing rate for COVID-19. This rate is considerably lower than the previous two weeks, which had ranged from 6.2–8.2%. The CDC recommends positive testing rates should be well under 5% for at least 14 days before reopening.

Despite the lower positive testing rate, the number of new cases in Delaware County continues to rise each week. Between Aug. 21 and Aug. 28, the Delaware County Health Department reported 134 new cases (compared with 81 new cases in the previous 7-day period) and 1 new death. As of Aug. 28, IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital is treating 10 confirmed cases, with three of those patients on ventilators; seven of the 10 patients are Delaware County residents.

The Health Department also noted that there may be even more cases present in the county than it is able to report, as Ball State University students who are currently residing in Delaware County but have permanent addresses in another county would likely be counted toward their home county's totals.

According to [the university's COVID-19 dashboard](#), Ball State has upwards of 500 positive cases amongst its students and faculty, as of Aug. 31. Kathy Wolf, Vice President for Marketing and Communications, said Ball State's "health and safety protocols call for physical distancing and the wearing of face masks."

Last week, BSU President Geoffrey S. Mearns sent [a letter](#) to students addressing the influx of cases.

"It is clear from a review of the data that I have been monitoring on a daily basis that the steady increase in positive cases is not linked to academic classrooms or spaces, or the residence halls," Mearns said in the letter. "Instead, this concerning trend is apparently the result of poor personal choices some students are making, primarily off campus."

Muncie Community Schools—which currently has four active COVID-19 cases, as well as 71 students, 3 coaches, 1 administrator and 1 after-school instructor in quarantine—echoed similar concerns regarding the actions of students and staff outside of school.

"We continue to see the effects of positive cases as a result of contacts being made after regular school hours," said Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, Director of Public Education and CEO of MCS. "While in school, students and staff continue to do a great job of following guidelines and there are great things happening in classrooms."

Local health officials urge the community to continue to wear a mask and to practice physical distancing and hand hygiene.

With Labor Day weekend coming up, the Health Department is encouraging everyone to follow [CDC guidelines for safe family gatherings and social activities](#). Events with more than 250 attendees are required by the state government to be approved by the local health department. If you plan to host an event that may exceed 250 attendees, please contact the Delaware County Health Department at 765-747-7721.

With flu season approaching, the Health Department is also reminding residents of the importance of getting a regular flu vaccine.

“Getting a flu vaccine this fall will be more important than ever, not only to reduce your risk from flu, but also to help conserve potentially scarce health care resources,” the CDC website says.

The CDC website also notes that flu vaccines will not protect against COVID-19; however, they have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization and death. For more information on flu vaccines and COVID-19, visit [the CDC’s website](#).

For more information on Delaware County’s COVID-19 total cases and deaths, as well as testing location information, visit [dcema.com](#).

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Staying Safe from COVID-19

To keep yourself safe from COVID-19 and to reduce the spread of the disease, wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds, wear a mask when inside public spaces or when in crowded areas, and practice social distancing.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone who tested positive, schedule an appointment to get tested as soon as possible. Self-quarantine until you have received negative test results. A list of testing locations can be found on the [Delaware County Indiana Coronavirus hub](#).

Events with more than 250 attendees are required by the state government to be approved by the local health department. If you plan to host an event that may exceed 250 attendees, please contact the Delaware County Health Department at 765-747-7721.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

People who have COVID-19 may exhibit any range of these symptoms, and some may even show no symptoms at all. Symptoms may appear 2–14 days after being exposed to the virus. Some symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Anyone with these symptoms should stay home as much as possible and limit their exposure to others. Children who have any of the above symptoms should be kept home from school.

What should I do if I think I might have COVID-19?

If you have any of the above symptoms or have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, you should immediately begin to self-quarantine to prevent spreading the disease to others. You should also call a local health clinic to arrange to be tested. Follow your doctor's orders, and continue to self-quarantine until you receive negative test results.

Children who exhibit any of the above symptoms should NOT be sent to school. If your child shows any of the listed symptoms, keep the child home in quarantine and contact your healthcare provider for further guidance.

Where can I get tested?

Several local health clinics offer COVID-19 tests, including Meridian Health Services, Open Door Health Services, and more. For a complete list of testing locations in Delaware County, visit the [Delaware County Indiana Coronavirus Hub](#).

Be advised that some locations may test only those who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. In coordination with the Delaware County Health Department, Open Door is in the process of planning community testing at its Madison Street location in Muncie, which will be available to both symptomatic and asymptomatic community members.

Open Door is also offering on-site testing. If you would like to have on-site testing at your organization or event, email info@opendoorhs.org.

AT A GLANCE:



Delaware County COVID-19 Updates

Numbers as of Friday, August 28, 2020

134
NEW CASES
IN PAST WEEK*

996
TOTAL CASES*

3.8%
POSITIVE TESTING RATE
IN PAST WEEK

1
DEATHS
IN PAST WEEK

54
TOTAL DEATHS

7
CONFIRMED CASES
CURRENTLY AT IU HEALTH
BALL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

* Additional cases of non-permanent Delaware County residents may be present.

** Number indicates Delaware County residents only. Other patients from outside Delaware County may also be at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital.

For more information on cases and testing, visit dcema.com

Please continue to wash your hands frequently,
wear a mask, and practice social distancing.



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