

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Delaware County Weekly COVID-19 Updates

Release Date: November 5, 2020

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. Delaware County weekly COVID-19 updates are released every Thursday and include information from the Indiana State Department of Health county metrics dashboard, which is updated every Wednesday afternoon.

COVID-19 is maintaining a “moderate to high spread” within Delaware County—as well as a vast majority of other counties in the state—according to the [Indiana State Department of Health’s county metrics map](#).

As of Nov. 5, Delaware County had reported 283 new cases of COVID-19 and 8 new deaths since the last report seven days ago. These numbers bring the county’s 7-day positivity rate to 7.9%; the CDC suggests this number should be well under 5%. As of Nov. 5, IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital is treating 52 confirmed cases, 35 of which are Delaware County residents.

With the numbers continuing to grow week over week, local health officials are encouraging extra precautions with the upcoming holidays.

“This time of year, many of us are making decisions about how we’ll celebrate Thanksgiving. With rates climbing locally and across the country, we can’t stress enough that keeping any gatherings small and socially distanced is critical to preventing spread,” said Dr. Max Rudicel, chief medical officer at Open Door Health Services.

Rudicel suggested hosting virtual gatherings or bundling up and enjoying Thanksgiving dinner outdoors to reduce the spread of the virus.

“We know changes to holiday traditions are hard, but we encourage everyone to think of disrupted holiday plans as a short-term inconvenience that results in the long-term benefit of keeping each other safe,” he said.

In an effort to reduce post-holiday spikes in COVID-19, Ball State University will be moving all classroom instruction online after Thanksgiving for the remainder of the fall semester. On-campus instruction for the spring semester will not resume until Jan. 19. The university will continue testing symptomatic students, faculty and staff between Thanksgiving and the spring semester through its partnership with IU Health.

As of Nov. 4, the university has 46 active cases of COVID-19 amongst its students and staff, according to its [COVID-19 dashboard](#). President Geoffrey S. Mearns and Connor Sanburn, president of the university’s Student Government Association, released a [video](#) earlier this week encouraging students and the Ball State community to remain vigilant with their precautions throughout the rest of the semester.

For more information on Delaware County's COVID-19 total cases and deaths, as well as testing location information, visit [dcema.com](https://www.dcemadep.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 500 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 500 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. For more information, read the Indiana State Department of Health's guidelines for returning to school [here](#).

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.

Open Door offers free community tests for individuals with or without symptoms, made available through a partnership with the Delaware County Health Department. (Insurance will billed if applicable.) Those who wish to get tested must register online in advance at opendoorhs.org/testing.

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.