



Feb. 23, 2022

COVID numbers trending down, state-mandated restrictions loosened, and just general COVID fatigue are translating to a drop in demand locally for COVID-related services. However, Douglas County has seen three COVID-related deaths in the last week, bringing the county's total count to 60.

COVID testing at DCHD

Appointment-based COVID testing at J600 continues, with hours Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. From Feb. 14-18, DCHD had a total of 75 rapid and PCR tests scheduled. IDPH figures from Feb. 19 that 7-day rolling positivity rate (rapid and PCR testing) for Douglas County residents was 3.1%, and for Region 6 that number was 3.9%.

Vaccination station

IDPH data as of Feb. 22 shows 51.41% of Douglas County residents have had at least one vaccine dose, while 47.30% of residents are fully vaccinated. There have been 4,273 booster doses administered to county residents.

Vaccination demand continues to decline locally, with this week's vaccine clinic appointments currently totaling less than 30. Should this continue, we will likely be limiting COVID vaccine clinic hours to one or two afternoons a month.

This and that

Scientists are tracking a sub-variant of Omicron, BA.2, and the **limited data available as this point** suggests that while it seems more transmissible than previous variants it does not seem to be any more severe. The FDA has recently issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for a new monoclonal antibody treatment, bebtelovimab. I have attached an IDPH press release regarding this therapeutic.

And as you are all aware, Feb. 28 marks the official start date of indoor masking no longer being required in many settings in Illinois. Noted exceptions to this include healthcare settings, government agencies, K-12 facilities (with the exception of the named defendants in an Illinois court case), and transportation hubs.

Thank you to all for your continued partnerships and support, and I will be in touch again next week.

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