



**March 29, 2022**

Appointment numbers for COVID vaccines continue to decline at DCHD. Case in point, the most recent vaccine clinic, held March 24, saw just 23 vaccines administered. There is broad speculation that a second Pfizer or Moderna booster dose may be recommended, but it has not yet come to pass at this time.

IDPH data as of March 23 shows 51.80% of Douglas County residents have had at least one vaccine dose, while 47.85% of residents are fully vaccinated. There have been 4,485 booster doses administered to county residents. DCHD is currently doing COVID vaccine clinics twice monthly—second and fourth Thursday by appointment—at the Tuscola Outlet Mall J600 location. The county, as well as the entire state, is currently in the low transmission category for spread of COVID.

COVID testing has also significantly slowed at DCHD. For the week of March 21-25, there were a total of 39 appointments for rapid and/or PCR testing. This is a trend that is occurring statewide, as evidenced by IDPH's decision to end community-based COVID testing sites after March 31. The availability of free at-home tests and extensive network of SHIELD saliva test sites around the state was cited as reasons for the decision.

COVID testing schedule at J600 remains Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. IDPH figures from March 25 show the 7-day rolling positivity rate (rapid and PCR testing) for Douglas County residents was 1.5%, and for Region 6 that number was 1.4%.

Just a reminder that free at-home test kits from the federal government can be ordered by logging onto <https://www.covidtests.gov>. Additional information and COVID-19 data can be found at <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19.html>. To make an appointment for COVID testing or vaccination at DCHD, log onto [www.dchealth.org](http://www.dchealth.org).

And don't forget, DCHD offers numerous other services and programs to county residents. We are looking for opportunities to partner with communities and organizations for health fairs if you're interested. Just let me know if there are community events going on where we can be a presence!

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