



Public Health
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Moultrie Health Department

202 S. Main St. | Sullivan, IL 61951

Contact: Glenda Plunkett
Public Health Services Coordinator
Glenda@moultriehealth.org
217.728.4114

News Release

Eight New Positive COVID-19 Cases in Moultrie County ***Moultrie County Reaches Warning Level***

SULLIVAN, IL, August 14, 2020 – The Moultrie County Health Department (MCHD) has confirmed eight new positive cases of the novel coronavirus-2019 (COVID-19). These individuals range in age from 20-70 years. Two of these are in the hospital, and six are currently isolated at home. Public health officials are notifying all close contacts.

To date, 2,551 Moultrie County residents have been tested for COVID-19. Of those tests, 107 have been confirmed positive for COVID-19. A total of 39 individuals remain in isolation.

IDPH is monitoring all Illinois counties in an effort to track high risk areas for the spread of COVID-19. When a county is blue on the risk metric map, it means that the county is experiencing overall stable COVID-19 metrics. Orange means there are warning signs of increased COVID-19 activity in the county.

On Friday, August 14, 2020, Moultrie County became orange on the Illinois COVID-19 risk metric map. This change in status is related to the number of increased cases reported from August 2-8, 2020, all of which are community-based transmission and unrelated to any known outbreak.

According to IDPH, the map is designed to guide residents and visitors on questions about risk of contracting COVID-19. Some questions to consider when a county is orange include: Should I still attend a large gathering of people? Are there precautions I should take given my personal health risks or those of my family? Should I wait to dine out? For more information, visit IDPH county metric map at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics?county=Moultrie>.

The Moultrie County Health Department is asking all individuals and businesses to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities by using the three basic Ws:

- **Watch physical distance** and keep six feet from others.
- **Wear a mask** when in public places.
- **Wash hands** routinely.

“We strongly encourage everyone to follow the three basic Ws and to take every precaution to reduce the spread of COVID-19,” said Moultrie County Health Department Administer Angela Hogan, RN, MSPH. “We are all susceptible to this virus. COVID-19 presents additional health risks and can be deadly for the very young, those over 65, people with compromised immune systems or other chronic conditions. The

best way to protect all of those we love is to wear a mask in public places or when you are around anyone who does not live with you.”

The CDC recommends that individuals who are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms stay at home and away from other people until:

- At least 10 days have elapsed since symptoms first appeared **and**
- In the last 24 hours the individual has been fever-free without fever-reducing medication **and**
- Symptoms have improved.

People with weakened immune systems may need to self-isolate longer than 10 days.

Information on area testing sites can be found at <https://dph.illinois.gov/testing>.

For more information on the Moultrie County Health Department’s news, events and services, please visit www.moultriehealth.org and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/moultriecountyhealth.