



## Health Officer

608 Oakland Ave. | Elkhart, IN 46516 | 574-523-2105

[elkhartcountyhealth.org](http://elkhartcountyhealth.org)

Elkhart County Health Department

June 22, 2020

We are now in "official" summer, and the novel coronavirus is still impacting our typical excursions and plans. Elkhart County remains at high risk for continued severe illness and death. Here is some data you should be aware of when planning family and personal activities for the rest of the summer.

We continue to see a high rate of positivity. Comparing the number of total tests we have done with the number of positive test results, we see that Elkhart County has a positivity rate of 14.2%, while the State has a rate of 10.5%.

We are now seeing about the same percentage of non-Latino cases as Latino cases (12.6% and 13.1% respectively), although, for most cases (74.3%), the ethnicity is left blank on the lab sheet, so we don't have the accuracy we'd like.

We are continuing to see a large percentage of younger people testing positive. The State reports that 6% of its positive cases are in the 0-19-year-old age group, while Elkhart County has 15.8%. We also see a higher percentage of our positive cases in the 20-29-year-old age group (15% for State, and 19.2% for Elkhart County). In the 30-60-year-old age groups, we mirror the State's percentages around 16-17%.

Particularly disturbing is our rate of deaths due to Covid-19. In just the past week, we have seen six additional deaths in Elkhart County, bringing our total to 38.

Some preliminary results from the second phase of the Fairbanks Study were recently released. This study tests people selected at random to see if they are positive for the coronavirus, and also tests for antibodies as evidence of prior infection. This study showed that of all the random people who tested positive, 43% were asymptomatic. The first phase of the study showed an asymptomatic positive rate of 45%, consistent with the more recent finding.

It's concerning that there can be so many people out and about, potentially spreading the coronavirus, and unaware they are carrying that infection. We must continue to be vigilant about wearing masks when leaving our homes, distancing, and washing hands often. Please do all you can to stop this deadly virus!

Lydia Mertz, MD  
Elkhart County Health Officer

*Improving the Lives, Health and Environment of our Community*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.