Elkhart County Health Department

Lydia Mertz, MD
Elkhart County Health Officer
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 I wanted to give you the weekly demographic update. We are looking for a positivity rate of 5% or less. Unfortunately, we are getting test results back late from some labs—we have waited 10 or more days for some to return. This has skewed the results a bit, and prevented us from getting data from the end of last week yet. Nevertheless, here are the numbers I do have, up to and including July 2.

 Our positivity rate went from 13.4% to 9.6%. I was pleased to see that change since the public health mask order was issued. I hope to continue to see good results as the public realizes the need for masks to slow the spread of this virus, and can see in the data how effective this can be.

Here are some other demographics.

Age group	Elkhart County	State
1-19 year old	15.9%	7.1%
20-29	19%	16.2%
30-39	16.7%	16.1%
40-49	16.9%	16.6%
50-59	12.9%	15.6%
60-69	8.7%	12.1%
70-79	5.1%	7.6%
80+	4.7%	8.7%

We are still seeing a large number of younger persons testing positive, while fortunately being able to protect our older population. Here are some more demographics.

	Elkhart County	State
RACE:		
White	35%	45.7%
Black or African-American	3.3%	12%
Asian	0.4%	1.5%
Other	19.9%	17.9%
Unknown	44.5%	22.8%

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	Elkhart County	State
ETHNICITY:		
Not Hispanic/ Latino	14.7%	33.4%
Hispanic/ Latino	14%	11.3%
Unknown	71.3%	55.3%
Female:	49.3%	52.2%
Male:	47.3%	46.1%
Unknown	3.4%	1.8%

The Unknown category means the information was not noted on the initial lab slip, and was not gathered at the contact tracing level.

In June, we experienced a total of 17 deaths, and unfortunately have experienced 10 deaths so far in July. A death from COVID-19 often comes a few weeks after first contracting the disease. As our positivity rates decrease, I anticipate fewer deaths, and will be watching this number closely. We will continue to use all this data to monitor how Elkhart County is responding to the coronavirus crisis.

I continue to urge residents to remember that each one of us can affect the whole county. When you or I wear a mask in public, someone else will see it and also put on a mask. If we all work together, we can protect everyone! Please do your part to keep everyone safe!

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