



Health Officer

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Elkhart County Health Department

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Elkhart County Health Officer

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I wanted to let you know some of the statistics we are looking at as we hold off on opening up more and concentrate on lowering our positivity rate. Here is what is going on in Elkhart County currently.

Our positivity rate for the week of June 1 was 20.0%; for the week of June 8, it was 15%; for the week of June 15, it was 28%; and for the week of June 22, it was 18.6%. Unfortunately, we have had 15 deaths in the month of June. We are shooting for a positivity rate in the range in the 5% or less, so you can see we really need to keep distancing, wearing masks, and washing hands. Also, testing can help identify persons who have the infection early in the course of their disease, so they can isolate quickly and stop spreading the virus unknowingly. We encourage testing if you feel ill, or if you have been around anyone who has been ill or tested positive.

Here are some of the demographics we also look at. First is the percentage of positive tests broken into age groups.

| Age group | Elkhart County | State |
|---------------|----------------|-------|
| 1-19 year old | 16.0% | 6.5% |
| 20-29 | 19.3% | 15.7% |
| 30-39 | 16.9% | 16.3% |
| 40-49 | 16.8% | 16.8% |
| 50-59 | 15.8% | 13.5% |
| 60-69 | 8.6% | 12.2% |
| 70-79 | 5.0% | 7.8% |
| 80+ | 4.2% | 8.9% |

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We are 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 | 33% | 45.3% |
| Black or African-American | 2.7% | 12.3% |
| Asian | 0.2% | 1.5% |
| Other | 19.4% | 18.2% |
| Unknown | 44.6% | 22.7% |

| | Elkhart County | State |
|---------------------|----------------|-------|
| ETHNICITY: | | |
| Not Hispanic/Latino | 13.2% | 33.3% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 12.5% | 11.4% |
| Unknown | 74.3% | 55.2% |
| Gender: | | |
| Female: | 48.7% | 52% |
| Male: | 47.4% | 46.1% |
| Unknown | 3.9% | 1.9% |

The Unknown category means the information was not noted on the initial lab slip, and was not gathered at the contact tracing level. The State Department of Health is working with the testing sites, and the contact tracers to try to emphasize the importance of obtaining this demographic information.

This information is part of what we will use to see how successful the county is at containing the spread of the virus from week to week. I will keep you informed of the changes.

As you go about this weekend, celebrating the 4th of July, the summer weather, and the gift of health and life, please do everything you can to keep from being one of the statistics listed here. Wear a mask, use distancing, and wash your hands often. Please have fun AND stay safe!

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