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Region 6 Moves to Phase 4 and Region 7 Advances to Tier 1

IDPH urges people to continue wearing masks, avoiding large gatherings, and getting vaccinated when eligible

Paxton – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced Region 6 (Champaign, Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, De Witt, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Iroquois, Jasper, Lawrence, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, Richland, Shelby, Vermillion) is returning to Phase 4 of the Restore Plan and Region 7 (Kankakee and Will) is advancing to Tier 1. Information about which tier and phase regions are in can be found at the top of the IDPH website homepage.

“I am excited that 10 out of our 11 regions have moved out of Tier 3 mitigations,” said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. “However, this does not mean we can let our guard down. We must continue to practice actions to protect ourselves from the virus – wear our masks, avoid large gatherings, and get the vaccine when it is our turn. This is particularly critical as new variants circulate, which early studies show spread much more rapidly. We are headed in the right direction once again, so let’s stay the course.”

IDPH will continue to closely monitor test positivity, ICU bed availability, and the number of people in the hospital with COVID-19. Should data show regions trending in the wrong direction, based on the established mitigation metrics, regions could once again find themselves in a higher tier with increase measures.

Metrics for moving from a higher to lower tier are as follows:

Moving from Tier 3 to Tier 2

Test positivity rate \geq 8% and below 12% for three consecutive days (7-day average)

AND

Staffed ICU bed availability \geq 20% for three consecutive days (7-day average)

AND

Sustained decline in COVID patients in hospital (7-day average for 7 of 10 days)

Moving from Tier 2 to Tier 1

Test positivity rate between 6.5% and 8% for three consecutive days (7-day average)

AND

Staffed ICU bed availability \geq 20% for three consecutive days (7-day average)

AND

No sustained increase in COVID patients in hospital (7-day average for 7 of 10 days)

Moving from Tier 1 to Phase 4

Test positivity rate \geq 8% and below 12% for three consecutive days (7-day average)

AND

Staffed ICU bed availability \geq 20% for three consecutive days (7-day average)

AND

No sustained increase in COVID patients in hospital (7-day average for 7 of 10 days)

Phase 4: Revitalization

In phase 4, There is a continued decline in the rate of infection in new COVID-19 cases. Hospitals have capacity and can quickly adapt for a surge of new cases in their communities. Additional measures can be carefully lifted allowing for schools and child care programs to reopen with social distancing policies in place. Restaurants can open with limited capacity and following strict public health procedures, including personal protective equipment for employees. Gatherings with 50 people or fewer will be permitted. Testing is widely available, and tracing is commonplace.

Please see the guidelines for Phase 4:

- **Gatherings:** All gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed with this limit subject to change based on latest data & guidance
- **Travel:** Travel should follow IDPH and CDC approved guidance
- **Health care:** All health care providers are open
- **Education and childcare:** P-12 schools, higher education, all summer programs, and childcare open with IDPH approved safety guidance
- **Outdoor recreation:** All outdoor recreation allowed
- **Businesses:**
 - **Manufacturing:** All manufacturing open with IDPH approved safety guidance
 - **“Non-essential” businesses:** All employees return to work with IDPH approved safety guidance; Employers are encouraged to provide accommodations for COVID-19-vulnerable employees
 - **Bars and Restaurants:** Open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance
 - **Personal care services and health clubs:** All barbershops, salons, spas and health and fitness clubs open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance
 - **Entertainment:** Cinema and theaters open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance
 - **Retail:** Open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance

Information about mitigation and resurgence metrics can be found on the IDPH website at

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics>.