August 28, 2020

Good Evening,

**Sangamon County** had 42 new positive cases of COVID-19 today, 61 have recovered and 18 people are hospitalized. We are also reporting a death of a female in her 80s. On Wednesday, I failed to mention the death of a male in his 90s. His death was reflected on the 8/26/20 daily chart. **Menard County** had one new positive cases today and one person is hospitalized.

Ages of the people who were reported to be positive:

**Sangamon County**
- Children - 2
- Teens - 6
- 20s – 11
- 30s – 5
- 40s – 6
- 50s – 4
- 60s – 4
- 70s – 2
- 80s – 1
- 90s – 1

**Menard County**
- 60s – 1

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health’s most recent weekly report (8/16/20 - 8/22/20), the positivity rate for **Sangamon County** has decreased to 4.8% with 5,496 tests performed. The weekly metrics still indicates a warning as there are currently 84 new positive COVID-19 cases/100,000 population. The target is 50/100,000. A second warning for 19 hospital admissions for COVID like Illnesses (CLI) caused Sangamon County to turn from blue to orange on the county metrics map. The target for CLI admissions is decreasing or stable numbers. This warning status should remind us to take precautions to limit our risk of exposure to COVID-19. Hospitalizations have more than doubled since August 24th. Those currently hospitalized are between the ages of 51 and 92.

**Menard County** has 2 new positive COVID-19 cases/100,000 population and the positivity rate has decreased to 2.5% with 199 tests performed. No warnings are listed for Menard County.
There is more information available from https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics. If you would like to see how our region is doing, we are part of Region 3, http://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics - this data is updated daily.

Another COVID-19 Story
“COVID has helped me realize how strong I am and that I can overcome anything. About two years ago, my four children and I were technically homeless. We had to leave our home because of an abusive family member. We did not have a home of our own, but I had support of a few very good friends. My children had to switch schools. I felt like a victim of a disaster, I lost almost everything, I was completely devastated. I found myself depressed and hopeless, but when I looked at my children, I was determined to not give up. I kept pushing and working. I was able to buy a home on an auction. The house was awful, I spent hundreds of dollars just removing the all trash. The roof leaked, there were busted pipes, I had to rebuild entire walls and parts of the ceiling in the house. With the help of a few good friends we gutted and renovated as much as possible. Seven months of work and we were finally able to move in. My children were so happy, so excited! We finally had a place that was all ours. Then, seven month later our entire state shut down. When panic and fear struck, I looked up and knew that I could overcome this too, one day at a time. I remember my ten year old son saying, “Good thing you got us this house mom, we can stay safe!” Never in my life have I felt so blessed to have a home! I am so thankful to have our own safe place. Yes, the journey has been very hard. Yes, I was and sometimes am sad, angry, frustrated, but today I woke up thankful. My family is stronger and closer, healthy and safe. The sun is shining, I can feel the wind on my face. I am alive, not only am I alive, I am thriving. No matter what happens in this world, we have power inside of us. Power to choose, power to do better, power to see something beautiful right in front of us, if only we try.” Thanks for sharing Stacie Fedor.

Until Sunday,

Gail

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