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217-839-1526 – Medical/Behavioral
217-839-1538 - FAX
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Morgan Street Clinic
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Medical/Behavioral - 217-854-3692
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Macoupin County Health Department Recommends Virtual Learning

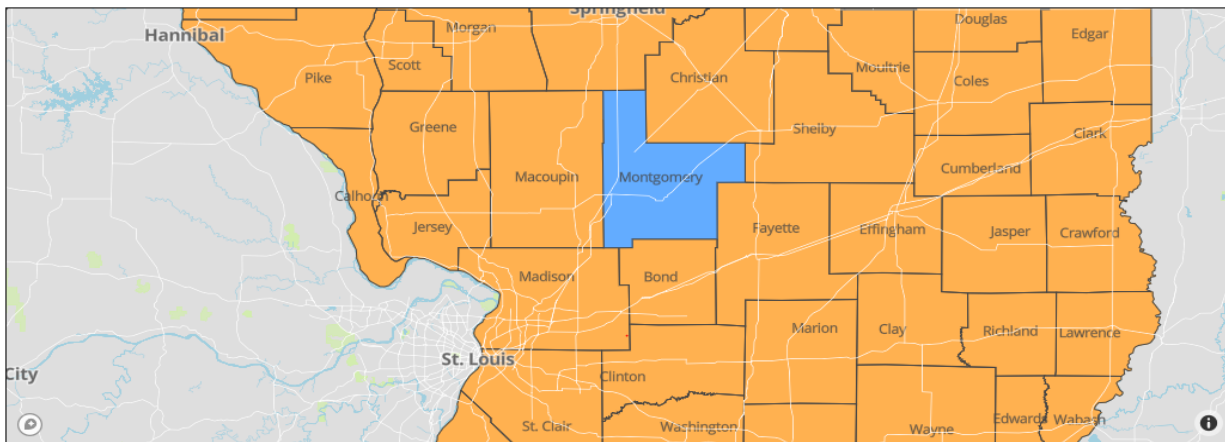
Macoupin County, IL — The Macoupin County Health Department is reporting 'substantial' community transmission of COVID-19. To protect students, staff, and their families and slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community, the Health Department is recommending that public and private K-12 schools in Macoupin County transition to virtual “remote” learning.

We have been seeing ‘substantial’ community transmission of COVID-19 in Macoupin County for more than 7 consecutive days, with rates of new cases that we have not seen since the pandemic was declared. We continue to work closely with our school superintendents to equip them with data and tools to make informed decisions. Now the decision is up to school districts, to use their expertise and authority to make this difficult decision for the health and safety of their school communities and the greater Macoupin County community.

During the week of November 1st through November 7th, the average weekly incidence rate, or new case rate, in Macoupin County rose above 100 cases per 100,000 residents to an alarming rate of 457 cases. Since then, the rate has continued to rise, despite the target rate of less than 50 per 100,000. Our positivity rate has also risen to an alarming rate of 12.6%, with a target rate of less than 5%.

Macoupin County Detailed Metrics & School Metrics

Week 45: 11/1/2020 Through 11/7/2020



Metrics for School Determination of Community Spread

Test Positivity (%)

(%) positive tests reported Sun-Sat
(Target: less than or equal to 5%)

12.6%

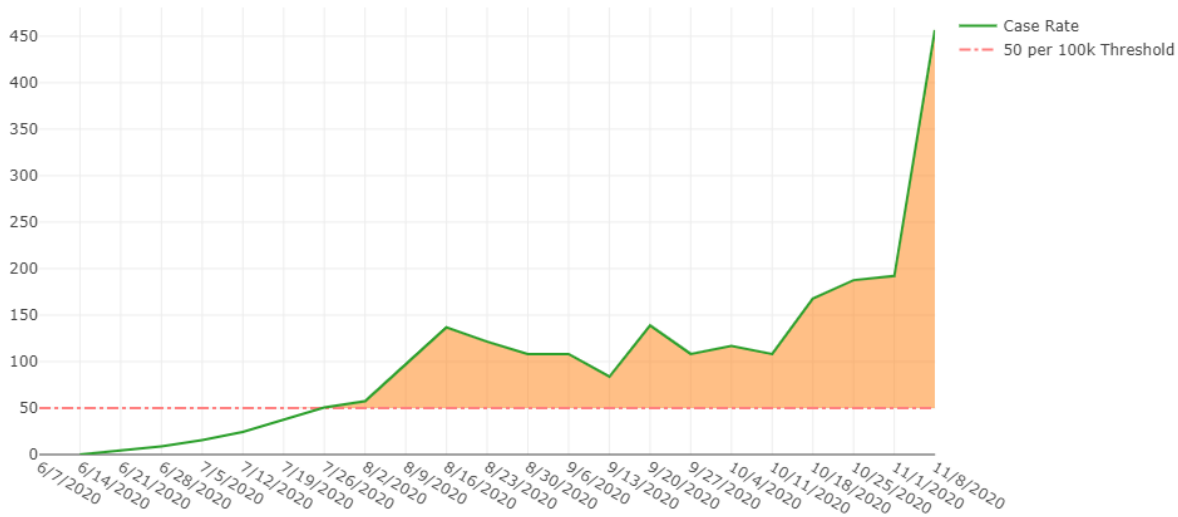
✖ Substantial

New Cases Per 100,000

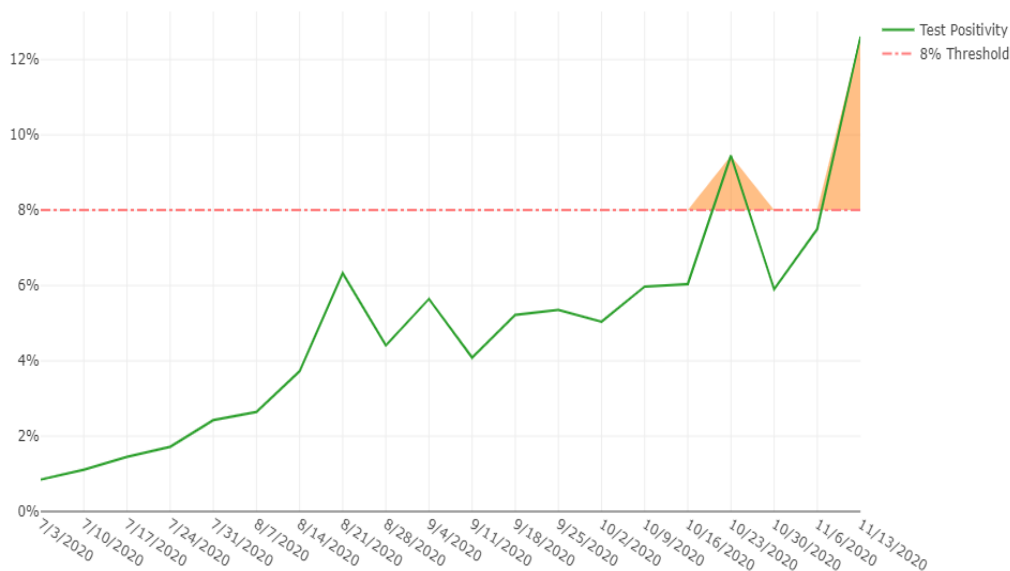
Cases Reported reported Sun-Sat
(Target: less than 50 per 100,000)

457 Cases per 100k

✖ Substantial



- Note that prior to the start of school in August, we were well underneath the 50 per 100 k per week Threshold. We now have reached a critical level of 457 per 100k per week Threshold.



- Note that we have remained underneath the 8% test positivity rate until recently, which we are now resting at 12.6 % test positivity. The target is less than 5% overall.
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countyschool?county=Macoupin>

School learning model recommendations are based on the **weekly average daily incidence rate** as follows:

- Substantial community transmission = >100 cases per 100,000 residents = Virtual “remote” learning model
- Moderate community transmission = ≥ 50 and ≤ 100 cases per 100,000 residents = Hybrid learning model
- Minimal community transmission = <50 cases per 100,000 residents = In-person learning model

Minimal Community Transmission	Moderate Community Transmission	Substantial Community Transmission
<p>Encourage in-person learning with at least six feet of physical distancing between students and faculty/staff*</p> <p>Consider opt-in remote option for students</p> <p><u>* All IDPH/ISBE health & safety precautions in place, including universal use of face coverings</u></p>	<p>Encourage learning models that maintain at least six feet of physical distancing*</p> <p>Some-to-no mixing of groups of students and teachers throughout/across school days</p> <p>Some students participate in virtual and some participate in-person</p> <p>School officials should use their discretion and expertise to determine which populations of students should receive in-person instruction whose needs are less likely to be met by virtual instruction; maintain essential services in-person and/or with remote access.</p> <p><u>* All IDPH/ISBE health & safety precautions in place, including universal use of face coverings</u></p>	<p>Encourage 100% remote learning*</p> <p>School officials should use their discretion and expertise to determine which populations of students should receive in-person instruction whose needs are less likely to be met by virtual instruction.</p> <p><u>* All IDPH/ISBE health and safety precautions in place, including universal use of face coverings and at least six feet of physical distancing</u></p>
<p>Alert for one metric but remained BLUE (IDPH-defined) at any point in the last 4 weeks</p> <p>Weekly county case rates ≤ 50 per 100,000</p> <p>Weekly county overall case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a $>5\%$ to $\leq 10\%$ increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly county youth case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a $>5\%$ to $\leq 10\%$ increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly test positivity $\leq 5\%$</p> <p>Neighboring county in orange once in the last 4 weeks</p>	<p>Transitioned to ORANGE (IDPH-defined) once in last 4 weeks</p> <p>Weekly county case rates >50 to ≤ 100 per 100,000</p> <p>Weekly county overall case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a $>10\%$ or $\leq 20\%$ increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly county youth case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a $>10\%$ or $\leq 20\%$ increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly test positivity $>5\%$ but $\leq 8\%$</p>	<p>Remained in ORANGE (IDPH defined) for >2 consecutive weeks</p> <p>Weekly county case rates above > 100 per 100,000</p> <p>Weekly county overall case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a $> 20\%$ increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly county youth case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a $>20\%$ increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly test positivity $>8\%$</p> <p>Region moved to Tier 1 mitigation</p>
<p>Return to full in-person learning as before COVID-19 will be based on broad access and uptake of a safe, effective vaccine to prevent additional spread of COVID-19 and/or when there are no new cases over a sustained period. This corresponds to Phase 5 of Restore Illinois Plan.</p>		

The Health Department's recommendation will return to hybrid learning once the county returns to the 'moderate' level for 7 consecutive days. Under the plan, the Health Department is also monitoring COVID-19 testing turnaround time, which has been relatively stable since the summer.

The Macoupin County Health Department will collaboratively work with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Macoupin County schools and the Illinois State Board of Education to review, monitor, and discuss recommendations regarding the guidelines and metrics. The safety of our students, staff, and communities is always first and foremost. Keeping our schools open for in-person learning is a priority. However, if we want schools to reopen and remain open, we must all do our part. It is relatively easy if you wear a mask, keep your distance, and wash your hands frequently. These are challenging and unprecedented times, but with collective behaviors we can slow the spread and get our children back to in school learning.

We do not make this recommendation lightly. Schools are being asked to utilize virtual learning not because schools are the main driver of our new infections, but because the levels of community transmission warrant extra measures to keep our students, staff, and communities safe. Schools alone cannot bear this burden, therefore we must all take personal responsibility to keep this virus from spreading in any way that we can.

Additional Information

Illinois had 183 deaths from Influenza from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

Illinois had 23,500 deaths from the Spanish Flu from 1918 to 1919, later leading to 675,000 deaths across the US

Illinois currently has 10,875 deaths from COVID-19 in the last 18 months

US currently has 248,000 deaths from COVID-19

All residents are urged to continue to follow the 3 W's to slow the spread of COVID-19:

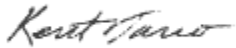
- Wear a mask
- Wash your hands
- Watch your distance

The Macoupin County Health Department reported Macoupin County's first COVID-19 case on April 2, 2020. As of November 16, 2020, 1,659 Macoupin County residents have tested positive for the disease, including 19 deaths. For more details, please visit IDPH's website at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/statistics>. For daily updates on Macoupin County cases, please visit MCPHD's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MacoupinCountyPHD/>.

For trusted information on the COVID-19 pandemic from reputable state and federal sources, visit the [State of Illinois](#), [Illinois Department of Public Health](#), and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) websites.

The Macoupin County Public Health Department will continue to work diligently to protect the citizens of Macoupin County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Tarro".

Kent Tarro,

Public Health Administrator