

# Increasing COVID-19 Cases

October 19, 2020

*From the Desk of  
Dr. Mary Henderson*



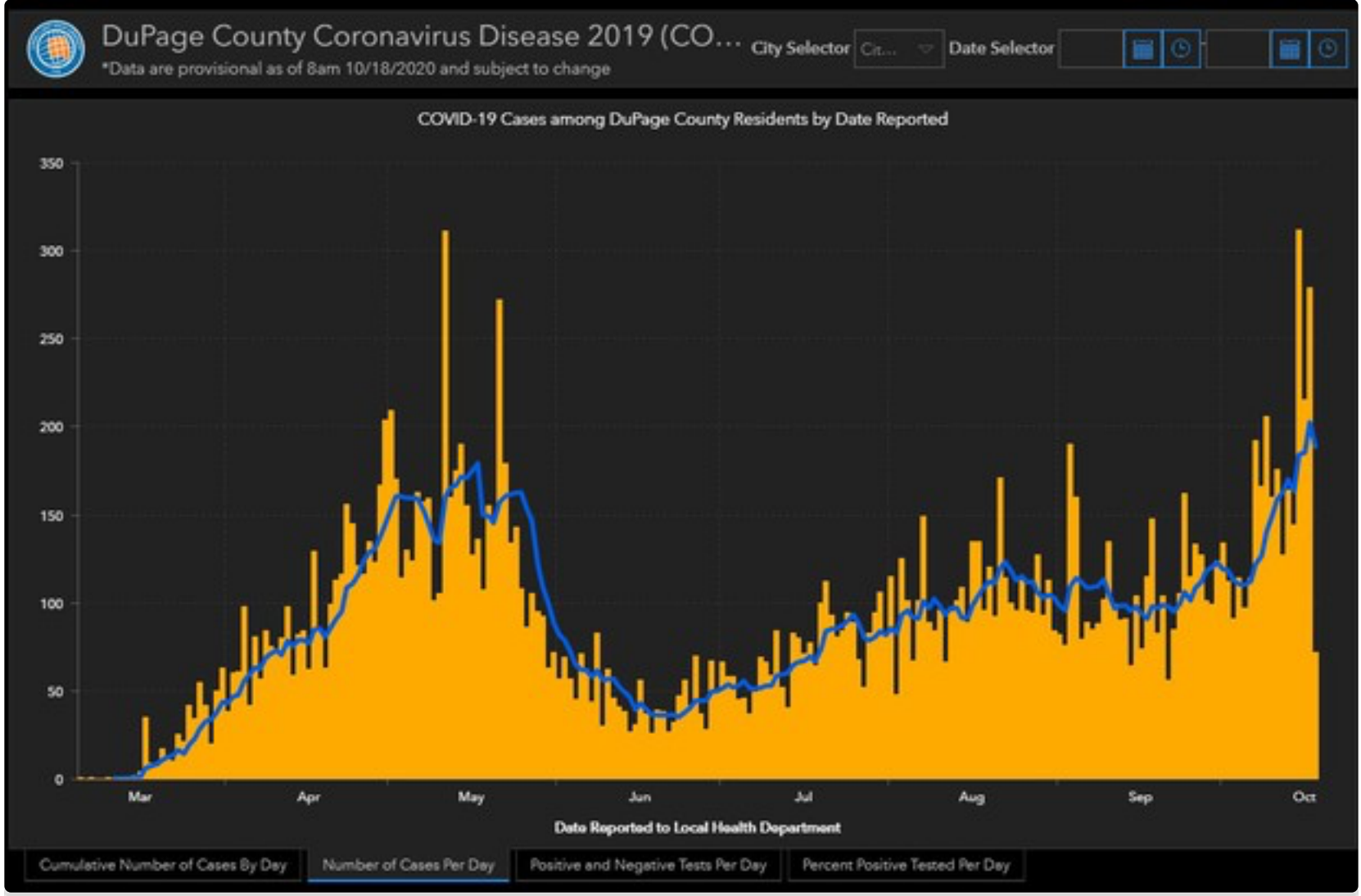
Good afternoon,

I am writing a second time today to share more detailed information about the growing number of cases of COVID-19 around the country, but particularly around the Chicago area. As I have shared throughout the pandemic, our county superintendents meet virtually with the health department every Monday. During our conversation this afternoon, we talked extensively about the concerning trend in our county for cases.

We are part of Region 8 in the state, and our region is comprised of DuPage and Kane counties. Our region has had two consecutive days of a positivity rate over 8%. After three consecutive days, the state could mandate more restrictive measures.

My purpose in writing today is to share information and encourage us to work as a community to do all we can. The graph below show the trend data for the number of positive cases per day. The upward trend is alarming. My encouragement to all of us is to reflect on the months of June and early July and think about the activities you chose to do during that time frame and, more specifically, the activities you were *not* doing. When I look around at the activities I see going on in my own community, as we hear students' conversations about their weekend activities, and concerns expressed by parents, we know that there are significantly more activities taking place that expose people to COVID-19.

Why are we not seeing outbreaks in schools? Why are our case numbers low in D12, even with two-thirds of our students attending in-person? We attribute this to the three factors that have been shown to significantly decrease the chance of virus spread: ***Wear a mask, maintain six feet of distance, and practice good hand-washing/sanitizing habits.***



The second graphic shows the type of setting where outbreaks have occurred in DuPage County since March. You can see that nursing homes and places of employment are the most common. Those settings would be considered settings where people don't have choice in being there. This reinforces the need for us to focus even more heavily on settings in which we do have control in order to bring down the number of cases.

| DuPage County COVID-19 Reported Outbreaks by Setting*<br>March 1, 2020 – October 13, 2020   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Category  | Number of Outbreaks<br>(percent of outbreaks) | Total Confirmed Cases<br>in Category<br>(percent of cases) |
| Long-term Care/Assisted Living  | 91 (41.9)                                     | 2,412 (79.0)   |
| Food Production Facility  | 13 (6.0)                                      | 164 (5.4)  |
| Factory/Manufacturer  | 34 (15.7)                                     | 143 (4.7)  |
| Other Workplace   | 15 (6.9)                                      | 64 (2.1)   |
| Restaurant  | 13 (6.0)                                      | 49 (1.6)   |
| Place of Worship  | 3 (1.4)                                       | 28 (0.9)   |
| Hospital  | 2 (0.9)                                       | 26 (0.9)   |
| Retail Store  | 6 (2.8)                                       | 24 (0.8)   |
| Medical or Dental Clinic  | 6 (2.8)                                       | 23 (0.8)   |
| Group Home  | 5 (2.3)                                       | 22 (0.7)   |
| Warehouse/Distribution Center   | 6 (2.8)                                       | 21 (0.7)   |
| Gym/Fitness/Dance Facility  | 2 (0.9)                                       | 16 (0.5)   |
| Office Setting  | 5 (2.3)                                       | 16 (0.5)   |
| School  | 5 (2.3)                                       | 14 (0.5)   |
| Community/Private Event   | 3 (1.4)                                       | 13 (0.4)   |
| Daycare   | 3 (1.4)                                       | 11 (0.4)   |
| Senior/Independent Living   | 2 (0.9)                                       | 8 (0.3)  |
| College/University  | 1 (0.5)                                       | <5**   |
| Correctional/Detention Facility   | 1 (0.5)                                       | <5**   |
| First Responder Workplaces  | 1 (0.5)                                       | <5**   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>217</b>                                    | <b>3,054**</b>   |
| *Data are subject to change; table includes suspect and confirmed outbreaks by date opened by DuPage County Health Department in Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Outbreak Reporting System (ORS). |   |  |

I know these are tough times for parents, particularly when others may be saying "yes" to gatherings. We encourage our families to work together and support each other in limiting everyone's exposure. While we of course want to remain in-person for our families who chose this, more importantly we want our community to stay safe and healthy. Let's work together to protect everyone in Roselle and continue to be a model of how to combat a pandemic effectively!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Mary Henderson, Superintendent