



Galena UMC

Recovery & ReTurn Report

September 2, 2020 Week #12

Galena's ReTurn Team

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Weekly Update ... *from Dale*

Our weekly meeting again finds us reluctant to make any sweeping changes concerning reopening of the church. Our local situation concerning covid seems to remain about the same (see Jay's article below). We are now discussing some new directions..... so please "stay tuned'!!!!

At some point, we hope to be back to hugs and handshakes. Concerts and movies. Travels and adventures. Gatherings. We will find a new normal. But for now, we must step back to care for each other. The time is now. We must act in a powerful and skillful way to stop the viral spread of the disease AND of fear. When feeling down and in despair, here's a thought.....

"Just when the caterpillar thought that his world was about to end, he turned into a butterfly!"

Notes ...*from Charlene* ... I'm finding that "staying in touch" seems to be the only good thing coming out of this pandemic. The more we can hold our church family close, the better it feels, whether it's by phone calls or notes. We really are all in this together.

Medical Tip of the Week ...*from Dennis*

Refer to FAQ page 1 for more detailed answer

What are the different types of masks? Which one is best?

- The order of effectiveness is N95 or KN95, followed by surgical masks, and lastly multilayer cloth masks. Bandanas, face shields, and single layer cloth masks do not provide adequate protection.

What is the difference between a KN95 mask and a N95 mask?

- Not much really. KN95 is the Chinese industrial standard while N95 is the U.S. OSHA standard. For the purpose of protecting us during the epidemic, the small differences between the two standards are not important. Masks using both standards are made in China.

CORONAVIRUS



Update from the County ... *from Jay*

Jo Daviess County returned to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)'s list of counties in a warning level on Friday, Aug. 28. A county enters a warning level when two or more COVID risk indicators that measure the amount of COVID in the specific county increase.

Some of the common factors that led to these counties being placed on the warning level are an increase in cases and outbreaks associated with large gatherings.

IDPH also stated that cases connected to schools are starting to be reported and general transmission of the virus in the community is increasing throughout the state.

The metrics that trigger a warning are:

- New cases per 100,000 people. If there are more than 50 new cases per 100,000 people in the county, this triggers a warning.
- Number of deaths. This metric indicates a warning when the weekly number of deaths increases more than 20-percent for two consecutive weeks.
- Weekly test positivity. This metric indicates a warning when the seven-day test positivity rate rises above 8 percent.
- ICU availability. If there are fewer than 20% of intensive care units available in the region, this triggers a warning.
- Weekly emergency department visits. This metric indicates a warning when the weekly percent of COVID-19-like-illness emergency department visits increase by more than 20 percent for two consecutive weeks.
- Weekly hospital admissions. A warning is triggered when the weekly number of hospital admissions for COVID-19-like-illness increases by more than 20 percent for two consecutive weeks.
- Tests performed. This metric is used to provide context and indicate if more testing is needed in the county.
- Clusters. This metric looks at the percent of COVID-19 cases associated with clusters or outbreaks and is used to understand large increase in cases.

These metrics are intended to be used for local awareness to help leaders, businesses, health departments and the public make informed decisions about personal and family gatherings, as well as what activities they choose to do. The metrics are updated weekly, with data from the Sunday-Saturday of the prior week. A map of each county's status can be found on the IDPH website at dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics. The two metrics that triggered Jo Daviess County's warning status for the week of Aug. 16 through Aug. 22 were due to 112 new cases per 100,000 and a test positivity of 10.2 percent. The county is on target for all other categories.

Jo Daviess was one of 30 counties announced by IDPH to have entered the warning level. The others are—Bureau, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Cook, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Greene, Grundy, Henderson, Henry, Jasper, Jersey, Johnson, Madison, Monroe, Morgan, Perry, Pike, Randolph, Sangamon, Shelby, St. Clair, Union, Warren, Will and Williamson.

Blessings ... *from Pastor Catiana*

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Psalm 118:24

This verse is one of those jewels that reminds us that whatever we're experiencing, we are not alone and each moment is held in the loving embrace of God, gently breathing us into the next moment of time. We may not be in our sanctuary but we are worshiping, praying and sharing God's love in ways we never dreamed. On September 20th, at 11am we'll gather for a Worship Confirmation Service in REC PARK. Call the office or me for reservations and your sanitized space will be waiting. Zoom will also be available for those who prefer to worship with us from home. With God's help, we will continue to live out our faith together in surprising new ways! Be assured, updates and connecting information will continue.

God bless you and keep you! Pastor Catiana **Do No Harm ... Do Good ... Stay in Love with God!**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13