



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Boone County
Health Department**

Boone County Health Department
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NEWS RELEASE

September 4, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FREE DRIVE-THRU TESTING AVAILABLE IN BOONE COUNTY AS COVID-19
RISK LEVEL DESIGNATION CHANGED FROM BLUE TO ORANGE**

BOONE COUNTY— The State of Illinois Department of Public Health and the Boone County Health Department will be sponsoring a free temporary Drive-thru and Walk-up COVID-19 testing site in the Boone County Administrative Campus parking lot at 1212 Logan Ave., Belvidere from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the following days:

Tuesday, September 8th

Wednesday, September 9th

Saturday, September 12th

Sunday, September 13th

There is no cost for testing and anyone can be tested. The test consists of a simple nasal swab. If you have insurance we ask that you bring your insurance card, but you can still be tested if you don't have insurance. You will be called with your results within 4-7 days.

“Accessible, timely testing is critical to reduce transmission of the virus and protect the community and we are pleased to be bringing testing capacity to Boone County,” said Amanda Mehl, Public Health Administrator.

“Please take advantage of this opportunity to get tested right here: it's fast, free and you don't need insurance.”

-More-

Free Drive-Thru Testing

Based on regional metrics established by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Boone County has changed from blue to orange on the County Level Risk Metrics Map. An 'orange' designation indicates warning signs of increased COVID-19 risk.

Eight different indicators are used to determine a county's designation. If two or more indicators are going in the wrong direction, the county is designated as orange. An increase in case rates, test positivity rate and number of tests performed are driving the move to the 'orange' designation for Boone County:

- Boone County is currently at 69 positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people. The target established by the state is 50 cases per 100,000 people.
- Our test positivity rate is 8.1% for Boone County for last week – up from 6.1% the week before. The target is less than or equal to 8%.
- Our tests performed number is 579. The target is triggered to warning status if the positivity is over 8%.

Information about all eight metrics and a map of each county's status can be found on the IDPH website at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics>

“Regrettably, we are trending in the wrong direction,” said Amanda Mehl, Public Health Administrator. “Boone County's designation as orange is an important reminder to every one of us in the community to do our part by following public health guidance that includes wearing a face covering, maintaining 6 ft. social distance, washing hands frequently, avoiding large gatherings, and staying home when you are ill. Your decisions about personal and family gatherings, as well as what activities you choose to do, does makes a significant difference in mitigating or accelerating the spread of COVID-19 in our community.”

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About The Boone County Health Department:

The Boone County Health Department is a local health department committed to serving the health needs of its almost 54,000 residents. Established in 1966, we promote and protect the health of the people and the communities in Boone County, right here, where they live, work, learn and play.