



# ILLINOIS

STATE REPORT | 08.23.2020

## SUMMARY

- Illinois is now in the red zone for cases, indicating more than 100 new cases per 100,000 population last week, and the yellow zone for test positivity, indicating a rate between 5% and 10%.
- Nationally, Illinois was 19th for most new cases per 100,000 population and 28th for highest test positivity last week.
- Illinois has seen stability in new cases (~9% increase) and stability in testing positivity over the last week.
- The following three counties had the highest number of new cases over the past 3 weeks: 1. Cook County, 2. DuPage County, and 3. Will County. These contiguous counties in the Chicago CBSA represent 49.8 percent of new cases in Illinois. Viral transmission is widely distributed in other parts of the state especially counties in the St. Louis CBSA (Region 4 – MetroEast). Multiple counties in Region 6 also showed worsening reported cases and test positivity rates last week.
- 56% of all counties in Illinois have ongoing community transmission (red or yellow alert), with 10% having high levels of community transmission (red alert).
- 0.6% of nursing homes are reporting 3 or more residents with COVID-19 per week over the last 3 weeks.
- Illinois had 105 new cases per 100,000 population in the past week, compared to a national average of 93 per 100,000.
- Current staff deployed from the federal government as assets to support the state response are: 57 to support operations activities from FEMA; 8 to support operations activities from ASPR; 1 to support epidemiology activities from CDC; and 7 to support operations activities from USCG.
- Between Aug 15 - Aug 21, on average, 108 patients with confirmed COVID-19 and 419 patients with suspected COVID-19 were reported as newly admitted each day to hospitals in Illinois. An average of 86 percent of hospitals reported either new confirmed or new suspected COVID patients each day during this period; therefore, this may be an underestimate of the actual total number of COVID-related hospitalizations. Underreporting may lead to a lower allocation of critical supplies.\*
- Please review the [West Virginia School K-12 metrics](#) that combine classroom education with sports activities for incentives to communities to ensure community transmission stays low.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Identify universities with RNA detection platforms; consider efforts to use this equipment to expand surveillance testing for university students and schools conducting in-person classes, especially institutions of higher education (IHE) without such capacity such as community colleges.
- Support a uniform case-reporting process for institutions of higher education and reporting of this data on public-facing dashboards, including on the state dashboard.
- Ensure all hospital testing capacity is being fully utilized to support additional community, nursing home and school (K-12) testing as ER visits and admissions continue to decline and additional testing capacity is available.
- To increase testing capacity, re-evaluate CBTS and consider adaptive approaches that meet the needs of Illinois' diverse populations. Increase engagement of community leaders (faith-based and organizational, such as associations, unions, NGOs) to promote testing; intensify targeting of testing within demographic groups and administrative areas with higher burden and intensify public messaging to explain and promote need and importance. Implement non-traditional or alternative means to expand mobile and community-based testing options for highly affected areas and communities.
- Keep statewide mask requirement in place. Ensure implementation of newly approved enforcement rules for masking mandate statewide to support local government application and enforcement.
- For counties in the red and yellow zones, close establishments where social distancing and mask use cannot occur, such as bars, nightclubs, and entertainment venues.
- In red zones, limit the size of social gatherings to 10 people or fewer; in yellow zones, limit social gatherings to 25 people or fewer.
- Continue efforts to build contact tracing capabilities (e.g., increase staff, training, and funding), with a focus on communities with increasing cases.
- Message to residents that if they have vacationed in, or had visitors from, areas or states with high COVID-19 prevalence, including the South and West of the United States, they should: avoid vulnerable individuals; remain socially distanced and masked when around others for a minimum of 14 days; avoid indoor gatherings where social distancing and masks cannot be maintained; and get tested if anyone in their family develops symptoms. Also, message that they can transmit the virus even when asymptomatic.
- Protect vulnerable populations in assisted living and long-term care facilities through routine testing of all workers and requiring masks. In facilities with workers who tested positive, ensure all residents have been promptly tested and appropriate cohorting measures are in place. Any nursing homes with 3 or more cases of COVID per week over the last 3 weeks should have mandatory inspection surveys conducted and immediate support for corrective action to ensure COVID-19 safety guidance and considerations are being implemented. Preventing further spread in these areas is critical to protect the vulnerable nursing home population.
- Expand public messaging to younger demographics, using social media and other messaging platforms, to communicate changes in local epidemic and appropriate actions that should be adopted.
- Specific, detailed guidance on community mitigation measures can be found on the [CDC website](#).

*The purpose of this report is to develop a shared understanding of the current status of the pandemic at the national, regional, state and local levels. We recognize that data at the state level may differ from that available at the federal level. Our objective is to use consistent data sources and methods that allow for comparisons to be made across localities. We appreciate your continued support in identifying data discrepancies and improving data completeness and sharing across systems. We look forward to your feedback.*

\* Psychological, rehabilitation, and religious non-medical hospitals were excluded from analyses. In addition, hospitals explicitly identified by states/regions as those from which we should not expect reports were excluded from the percent reporting figure. This value may differ from those in state databases because of differences in hospital lists and reporting processes between federal and state systems. The data presented represents raw data provided; we are working diligently with state liaisons to improve reporting consistency. Continued feedback on improving these data is welcome.



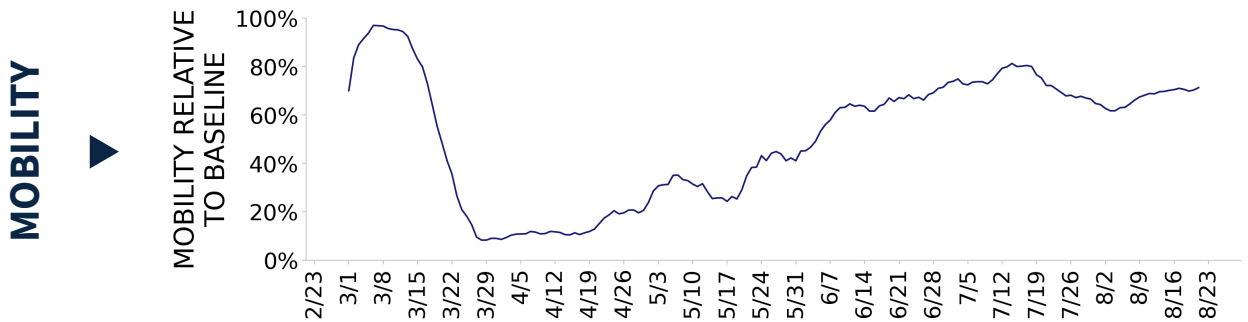
COVID-19



## ILLINOIS

STATE REPORT | 08.23.2020

	STATE, LAST WEEK	STATE, % CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	FEMA/HHS REGION, LAST WEEK	UNITED STATES, LAST WEEK
<b>NEW CASES</b> (RATE PER 100,000)	<b>13,244</b> (105)	<b>+8.8%</b>	<b>38,584</b> (73)	<b>306,444</b> (93)
<b>VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY RATE</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>+0.1%*</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
<b>TOTAL VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TESTS (TESTS PER 100,000)</b>	<b>261,865**</b> (2,067)	<b>-2.1%**</b>	<b>925,690**</b> (1,762)	<b>5,541,796**</b> (1,688)
<b>COVID DEATHS</b> (RATE PER 100,000)	<b>137</b> (1)	<b>+28.0%</b>	<b>619</b> (1)	<b>6,953</b> (2)
<b>SNFs WITH AT LEAST ONE RESIDENT COVID-19 CASE</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>+0.4%*</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>



\* Indicates absolute change in percentage points.

\*\* Due to delayed reporting, this figure may underestimate total diagnostic tests and week-on-week changes in diagnostic tests.

**DATA SOURCES****Note:** Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date data as possible.**Cases and Deaths:** State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 8/21/2020; last week is 8/15 - 8/21, previous week is 8/8 - 8/14.**Testing:** The data presented above represent viral COVID-19 laboratory diagnostic and screening test (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, RT-PCR) results—not individual people—and exclude antibody and antigen tests. CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data are used to describe state-level viral COVID-19 laboratory test (RT-PCR) result totals when able to be disaggregated from serology test results and to describe county-level totals when information is available on patients' county of residence or healthcare providers' practice location. HHS Protect laboratory data (provided directly to Federal Government from public health labs, hospital labs, and commercial labs) are used otherwise. Some states did not report on certain days, which may affect the total number of tests resulted and positivity rate values. Total viral (RT-PCR) laboratory tests are the number of tests performed, not the number of individuals tested. Viral (RT-PCR) laboratory test positivity rate is the number of positive tests divided by the number of tests performed and resulted. Last week data are from 8/13 - 8/19; previous week data are from 8/6 - 8/12. HHS Protect data is recent as of 08:00 EDT on 08/23/2020. Testing data are inclusive of everything received and processed by the CELR system as of 19:00 EDT on 08/22/2020. Testing data may be backfilled over time, resulting in changes week-to-week in testing data. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date testing data as possible.**Mobility:** Descartes Labs. This data depicts the median distance moved across a collection of mobile devices to estimate the level of human mobility within a county. The 100% represents the baseline mobility level; lower percent mobility indicates less population movement. Data is anonymized and provided at the county level. Data through 8/21/2020.**SNFs:** Skilled nursing facilities. National Healthcare Safety Network. Data report resident cases. Last week is 8/10-8/16, previous week is 8/3-8/9.



# ILLINOIS

STATE REPORT | 08.23.2020

## COVID-19 COUNTY AND METRO ALERTS\*

Top 12 shown in table (full lists below)

### LOCALITIES IN RED ZONE

### LOCALITIES IN YELLOW ZONE

**METRO  
AREA  
(CBSA)  
LAST WEEK**

**4**

Mount Vernon  
Fort Madison-Keokuk  
Burlington  
Cape Girardeau

**16**

Chicago-Naperville-Elgin  
St. Louis  
Peoria  
Ottawa  
Carbondale-Marion  
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island  
Charleston-Mattoon  
Decatur  
Kankakee  
Quincy  
Jacksonville  
Effingham

**COUNTY  
LAST WEEK**

**10**

Clinton  
Jefferson  
Randolph  
Jersey  
Cass  
Shelby  
Greene  
Cumberland  
White  
Jasper

**47**

Cook  
Will  
Lake  
Kane  
Madison  
St. Clair  
Peoria  
McHenry  
LaSalle  
Tazewell  
Rock Island  
Coles

**All Yellow CBSAs:** Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, St. Louis, Peoria, Ottawa, Carbondale-Marion, Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, Charleston-Mattoon, Decatur, Kankakee, Quincy, Jacksonville, Effingham, Galesburg, Sterling, Centralia, Freeport

**All Yellow Counties:** Cook, Will, Lake, Kane, Madison, St. Clair, Peoria, McHenry, LaSalle, Tazewell, Rock Island, Coles, Macon, Williamson, Kankakee, Adams, Kendall, Effingham, Morgan, Jackson, Bureau, Knox, Henry, Franklin, Perry, Grundy, Woodford, Whiteside, Monroe, Union, Boone, Hancock, Marion, Douglas, Moultrie, Montgomery, Carroll, Fayette, Bond, Stephenson, Warren, Clay, Richland, Pike, Johnson, Edgar, Washington

\* Localities with fewer than 10 cases last week have been excluded from these alerts.

**Red Zone:** Those core-based statistical areas (CBSAs) and counties that during the last week reported both new cases above 100 per 100,000 population, and a viral (RT-PCR) lab test positivity result above 10%.

**Yellow Zone:** Those core-based statistical areas (CBSAs) and counties that during the last week reported both new cases between 10-100 per 100,000 population, and a viral (RT-PCR) lab test positivity result between 5-10%, or one of those two conditions and one condition qualifying as being in the "Red Zone."

**Note:** Top 12 locations are selected and sorted based on the highest number of new cases in the last 3 weeks. Lists of red and yellow localities are sorted by the number of new cases in the last 3 weeks, from highest to lowest.

#### DATA SOURCES

**Cases and Deaths:** State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 8/21/2020; last week is 8/15 - 8/21, three weeks is 8/1 - 8/21.

**Testing:** CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 8/19/2020. Last week is 8/13 - 8/19. Testing data may be backfilled over time, resulting in changes week-to-week in testing data. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date testing data as possible.

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## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTIES IN THE RED ZONE

### Public Messaging

- Wear a mask at all times outside the home and maintain physical distance
- Limit social gatherings to 10 people or fewer
- Do not go to bars, nightclubs, or gyms
- Use take out or eat outdoors socially distanced
- Protect anyone with serious medical conditions at home by social distancing at home and using high levels of personal hygiene, including handwashing and cleaning surfaces
- Reduce your public interactions and activities to 25% of your normal activity

### Public Officials

- Close bars and gyms, and create outdoor dining opportunities with pedestrian areas
- Limit social gatherings to 10 people or fewer
- Institute routine weekly testing of all workers in assisted living and long-term care facilities. Require masks for all staff and prohibit visitors
- Ensure that all business retailers and personal services require masks and can safely social distance
- Increase messaging on the risk of serious disease for individuals in all age groups with preexisting obesity, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus, and recommend to shelter in place
- Work with local community groups to provide targeted, tailored messaging to communities with high case rates, and increase community level testing
- Recruit more contact tracers as community outreach workers to ensure all cases are contacted and all positive households are individually tested within 24 hours
- Provide isolation facilities outside of households if COVID-positive individuals can't quarantine successfully

### Testing

- Move to community-led neighborhood testing and work with local community groups to increase access to testing
- Surge testing and contact tracing resources to neighborhoods and zip codes with highest case rates
- **Diagnostic pooling:** Laboratories should use pooling of samples to increase testing access and reduce turnaround times to under 12 hours. Consider pools of 2-3 individuals in high incidence settings and 5:1 pools in setting where test positivity is under 10%
- **Surveillance pooling:** For family and cohabitating households, screen entire households in a single test by pooling specimens of all members into single collection device

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTIES IN THE YELLOW ZONE IN ORDER TO PREEMPT EXPONENTIAL COMMUNITY SPREAD

### Public Messaging

- Wear a mask at all times outside the home and maintain physical distance
- Limit social gatherings to 25 people or fewer
- Do not go to bars or nightclubs
- Use take out, outdoor dining or indoor dining when strict social distancing can be maintained
- Protect anyone with serious medical conditions at home by social distancing at home and using high levels of personal hygiene
- Reduce your public interactions and activities to 50% of your normal activity

### Public Officials

- Limit gyms to 25% occupancy and close bars until percent positive rates are under 3%; create outdoor dining opportunities with pedestrian areas
- Limit social gatherings to 25 people or fewer
- Institute routine weekly testing of all workers in assisted living and long-term care facilities. Require masks for all staff and prohibit visitors
- Ensure that all business retailers and personal services require masks and can safely social distance
- Increase messaging on the risk of serious disease for individuals in all age groups with preexisting obesity, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus, and recommend to shelter in place
- Work with local community groups to provide targeted, tailored messaging to communities with high case rates, and increase community level testing
- Recruit more contact tracers as community outreach workers to ensure all cases are contacted and all positive households are individually tested within 24 hours
- Provide isolation facilities outside of households if COVID-positive individuals can't quarantine successfully

### Testing

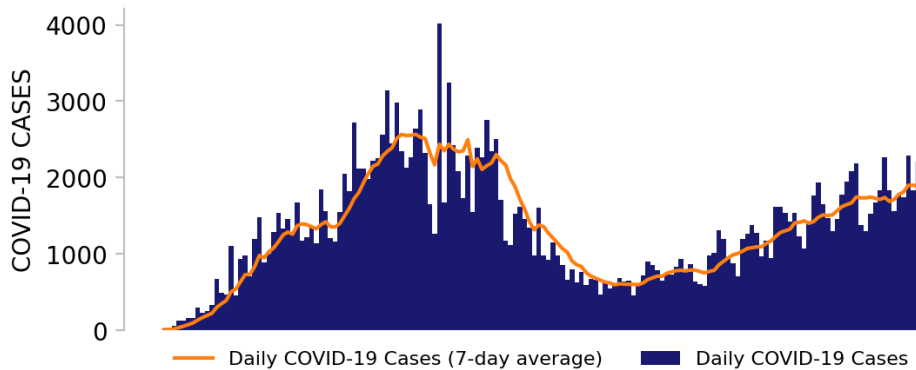
- Move to community-led neighborhood testing and work with local community groups to increase access to testing
- Surge testing and contact tracing resources to neighborhoods and zip codes with highest case rates
- **Diagnostic pooling:** Laboratories should use pooling of samples to increase testing access and reduce turnaround times to under 12 hours. Consider pools of 3-5 individuals
- **Surveillance pooling:** For family and cohabitating households, screen entire households in a single test by pooling specimens of all members into single collection device



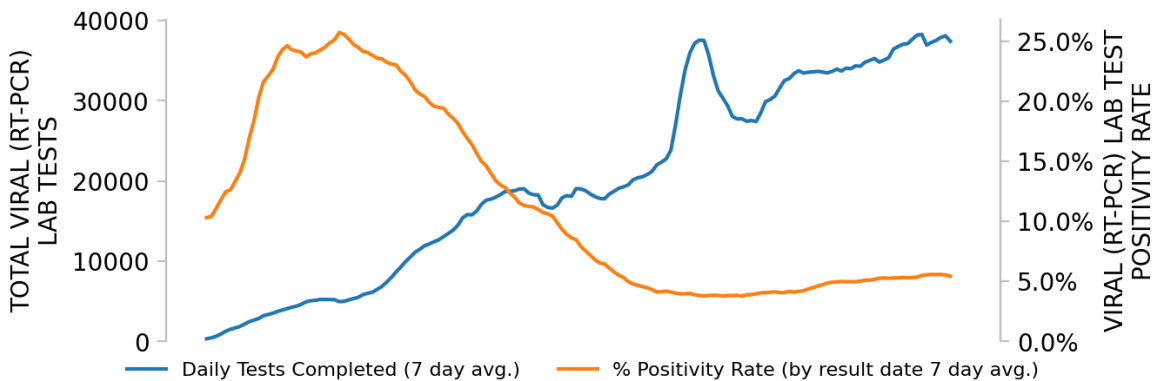
# ILLINOIS

STATE REPORT | 08.23.2020

## NEW CASES

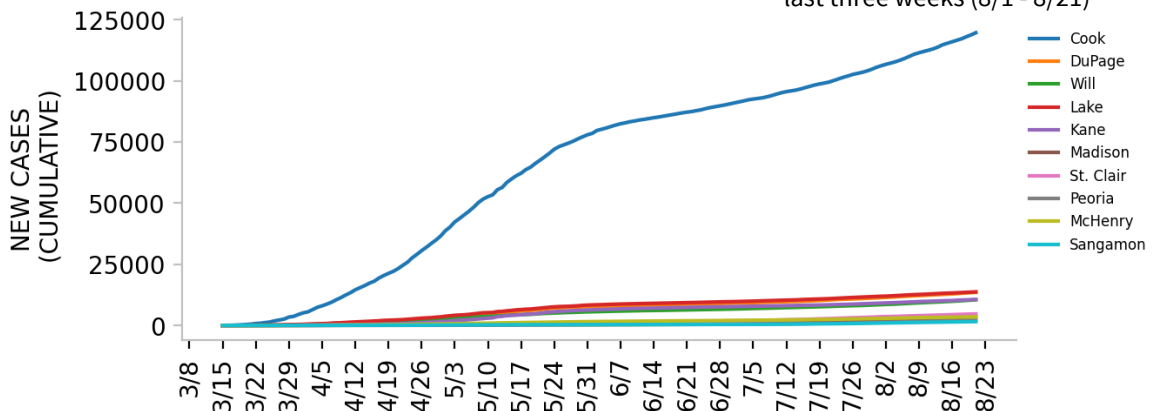


## TESTING



Top counties based on greatest number of new cases in last three weeks (8/1 - 8/21)

## TOP COUNTIES



### DATA SOURCES

**Cases:** County-level data from USAFacts. State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 8/21/2020.

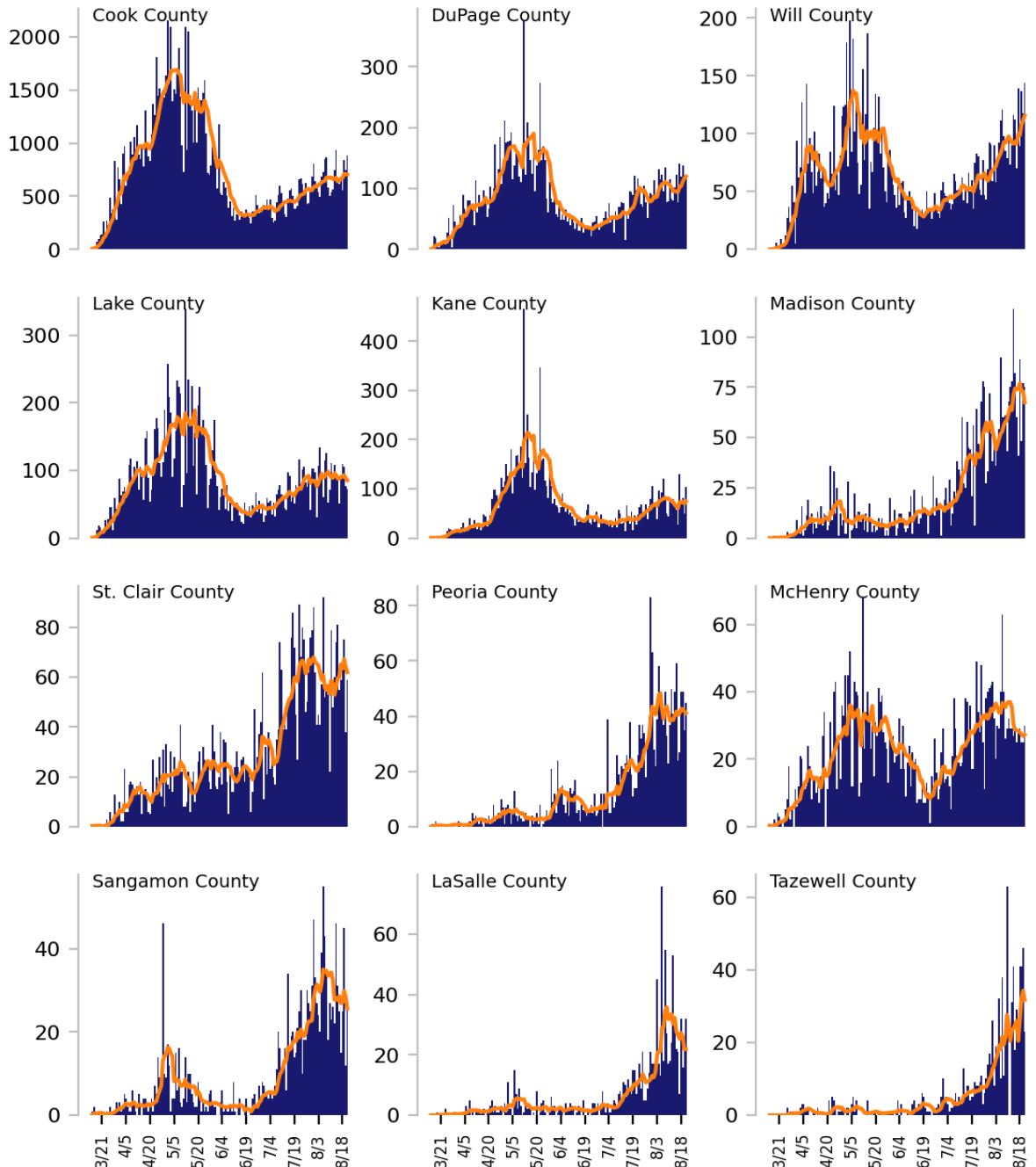
**Testing:** CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 8/19/2020.



## Top 12 counties based on number of new cases in the last 3 weeks

— Daily COVID-19 Cases (7-day average)    ■ Daily COVID-19 Cases

TOTAL DAILY CASES



### DATA SOURCES

**Cases:** County-level data from USAFacts through 8/21/2020. Last 3 weeks is 8/1 - 8/21.

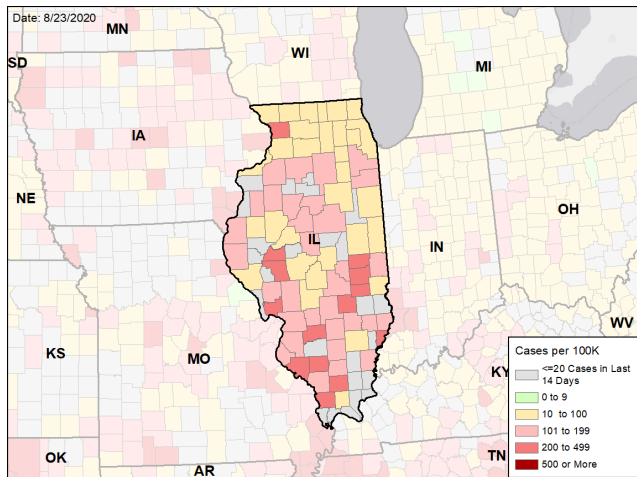


# ILLINOIS

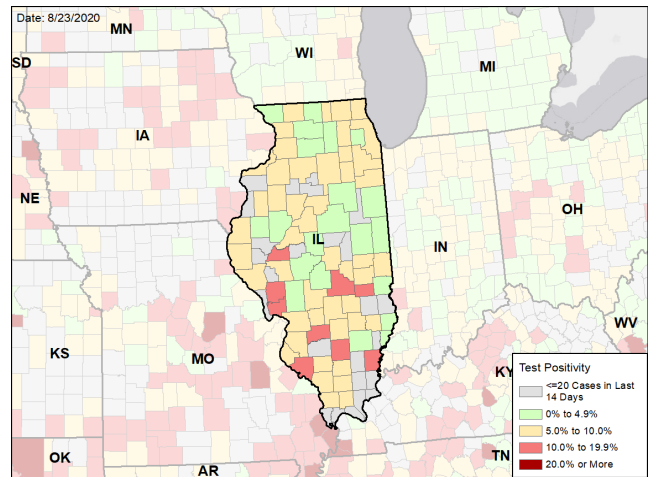
STATE REPORT | 08.23.2020

## CASE RATES AND DIAGNOSTIC VIRAL LAB TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK

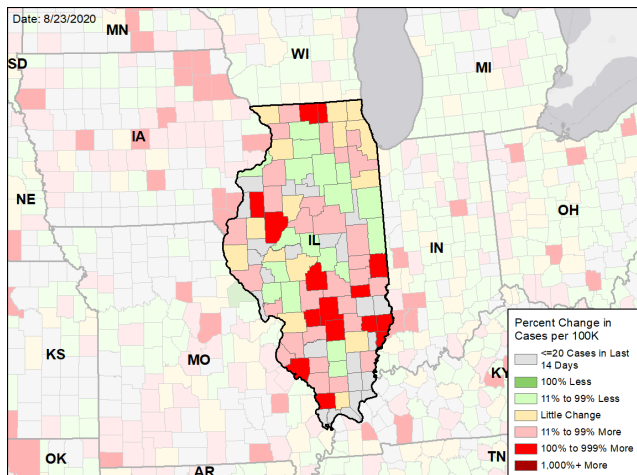
### NEW CASES PER 100,000 DURING LAST WEEK



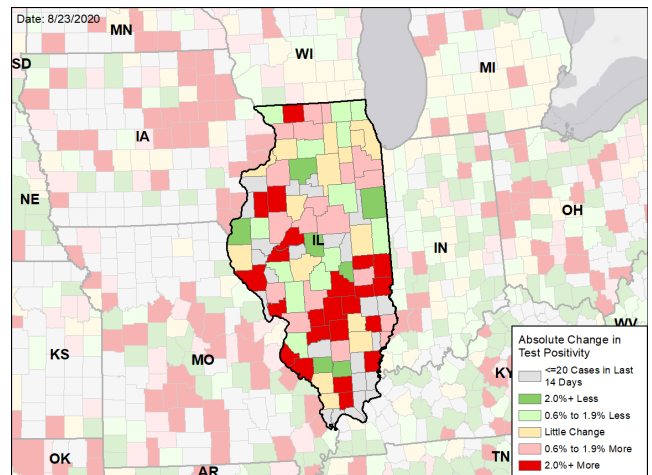
### VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK



### WEEKLY % CHANGE IN NEW CASES PER 100K



### WEEKLY CHANGE IN VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY



### DATA SOURCES

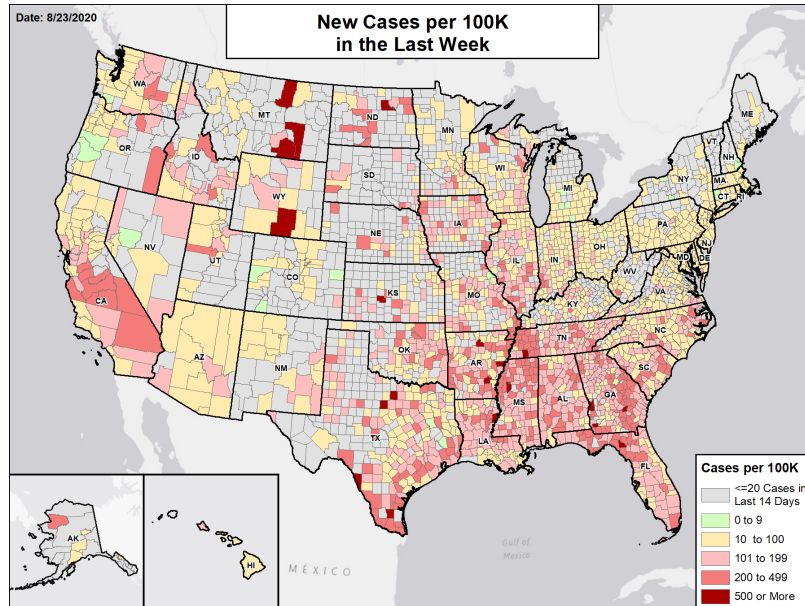
**Cases:** County-level data from USAFacts through 8/21/2020. Last week is 8/15 - 8/21, previous week is 8/8 - 8/14.

**Testing:** CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 8/19/2020. Last week is 8/13 - 8/19, previous week is 8/6 - 8/12. Testing data may be backfilled over time, resulting in changes week-to-week in testing data. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date testing data as possible.

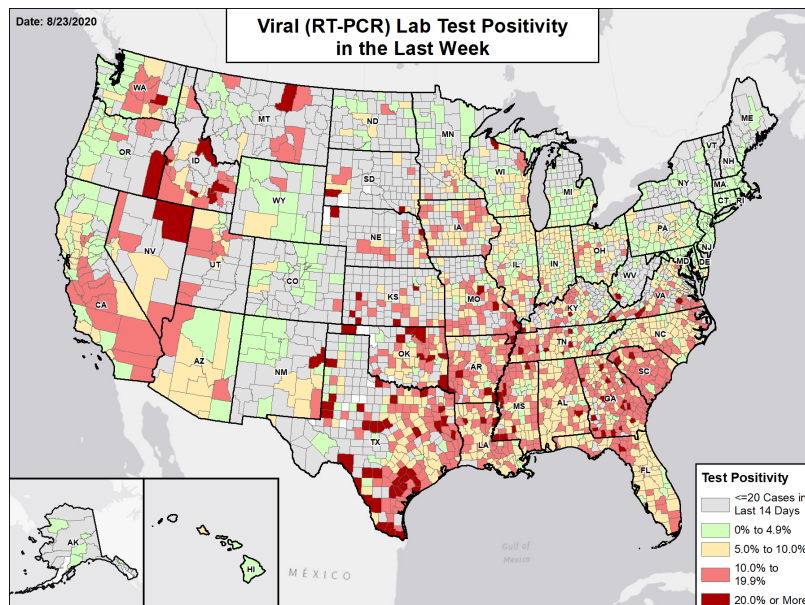


# National Picture

## NEW CASES PER 100,000 LAST WEEK



## VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY LAST WEEK



## DATA SOURCES

**Cases:** County-level data from USAFacts through 8/21/2020. Last week is 8/15 - 8/21.

**Testing:** Combination of CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data and HHS Protect laboratory data (provided directly to Federal Government from public health labs, hospital labs, and commercial labs) through 8/19/2020. Last week is 8/13 - 8/19. Testing data may be backfilled over time, resulting in changes week-to-week in testing data. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date testing data as possible.



# Methods

STATE REPORT | 08.23.2020

**COLOR THRESHOLDS:** Results for each indicator should be taken in context of the findings for related indicators (e.g., changes in case incidence and testing volume)

Metric	Green	Yellow	Red
New cases per 100,000 population per week	<10	10-100	>100
Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population	<-10%	-10% - 10%	>10%
Diagnostic test result positivity rate	<5%	5%-10%	>10%
Change in test positivity	<-0.5%	-0.5%-0.5%	>0.5%
Total diagnostic tests resulted per 100,000 population per week	>1000	500-1000	<500
Percent change in tests per 100,000 population	>10%	-10% - 10%	<-10%
COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 population per week	<1	1-2	>2
Percent change in deaths per 100,000 population	<-10%	-10% - 10%	>10%
Skilled Nursing Facilities with at least one resident COVID-19 case	0%	0.1%-5%	>5%
Change in SNFs with at least one resident COVID-19 case	<-0.5%	-0.5%-0.5%	>0.5%

## DATA NOTES

- Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date data as possible.
- Cases and deaths:** County-level data from USAFacts as of 13:00 EDT on 08/23/2020. State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data are reviewed on a daily basis against internal and verified external sources and, if needed, adjusted. Last week data are from 8/15 to 8/21; previous week data are from 8/8 to 8/14.
- Testing:** The data presented represent viral COVID-19 laboratory diagnostic and screening test (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, RT-PCR) results—not individual people—and exclude antibody and antigen tests. CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data are used to describe state-level viral COVID-19 laboratory test (RT-PCR) result totals when able to be disaggregated from serology test results and to describe county-level totals when information is available on patients' county of residence or healthcare providers' practice location. HHS Protect laboratory data (provided directly to Federal Government from public health labs, hospital labs, and commercial labs) are used otherwise. Some states did not report on certain days, which may affect the total number of tests resulted and positivity rate values. Total viral (RT-PCR) laboratory tests are the number of tests performed, not the number of individuals tested. Viral (RT-PCR) laboratory test positivity rate is the number of positive tests divided by the number of tests performed and resulted. Last week data are from 8/13 to 8/19; previous week data are from 8/6 to 8/12. HHS Protect data is recent as of 08:00 EDT on 08/23/2020. Testing data are inclusive of everything received and processed by the CELR system as of 19:00 EDT on 08/22/2020. Testing data may be backfilled over time, resulting in changes week-to-week in testing data. It is critical that states provide as up-to-date testing data as possible.
- Mobility:** Descartes Labs. These data depict the median distance moved across a collection of mobile devices to estimate the level of human mobility within a locality; 100% represents the baseline mobility level. Data is recent as of 13:00 EDT on 08/23/2020 and through 8/21/2020.
- Hospitalizations:** Unified hospitalization dataset in HHS Protect. This figure may differ from state data due to differences in hospital lists and reporting between federal and state systems. These data exclude psychiatric, rehabilitation, and religious non-medical hospitals. In addition, hospitals explicitly identified by states/regions as those from which we should not expect reports were excluded from the percent reporting figure. The data presented represents raw data provided; we are working diligently with state liaisons to improve reporting consistency. Data is recent as of 14:30 EDT on 08/23/2020.
- Skilled Nursing Facilities:** National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Data report resident cases. Quality checks are performed on data submitted to the NHSN. Data that fail these quality checks or appear inconsistent with surveillance protocols may be excluded from analysis. Also note that data presented by NHSN is more recent than the data publicly posted by CMS. Therefore, data presented may differ slightly from those publicly posted by CMS.