



Elkhart County Health Department

July 31, 2020

Elkhart County will join the rest of the state in Stage 4.5 beginning August 1, 2020. This was possible because of decreasing positivity rates over the past week. I applaud all the citizens who worked together to wear masks in public, distance themselves, use hand hygiene, and stay home when sick. Your efforts got us closer to controlling the spread of the SARS-Co-V-2 virus in our county. Our positivity rates have gone from 13.7% to 8.4% recently, allowing us to move toward a bit more openness.

Everyone should remember we have not gotten rid of the virus in Elkhart County; we have only suppressed its spread. If we stop the mitigation measures, we will see an increase in illness, a stretching of our hospitals' capacity, and a forced return to a more closed way of living. I urge all residents to keep wearing masks in public, use physical distancing, wash your hands often, and stay home when feeling ill. Let us all work together for continued success.

Lydia Mertz, MD  
Elkhart County Health Officer

*Improving the Lives, Health and Environment of our Community*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.