



Health Officer

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Elkhart County Health Department

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Elkhart County Health Officer

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I wanted to give you the weekly demographic update. We are looking for a positivity rate of 5% or less. Unfortunately, we are continuing to experience a delay in getting test results back from some labs—we are waiting 10 or more days for some to return. This continues to skew the results, and has prevented us from getting data from the end of last week yet. Nevertheless, here are the numbers I do have, up to and including July 11. .

Our positivity rate for the week of July 5-July 11 was 12.9%. Although there are some dips lower, I prefer to use an entire week to get a better idea of how things are going. We may be somewhat lower as all the test results aren't in yet, but I have to give you the numbers I have at this time, and adjust them as needed when information that is more complete is available.

Here are some other demographics.

Age group	Elkhart County	State
1-19 year old	16.2%	8.0%
20-29	18.8%	17.3%
30-39	16.4%	15.8%
40-49	16.9%	16.4%
50-59	13.2%	15.3%
60-69	8.9%	11.8%
70-79	5.2%	7.4%
80+	4.3%	8.0%

We continue to see large numbers of younger persons testing positive, while fortunately being able to protect our older population. Here are some more demographics.

	Elkhart County	State
RACE:		
White	35.4%	46.2%
Black or African-American	3.9%	11.7%
Asian	0.3%	1.4%
Other	20.0%	17.1%
Unknown	40.4%	23.7%

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	Elkhart County	State
ETHNICITY:		
Not Hispanic/ Latino	15.9%	33.8%
Hispanic/ Latino	16.4%	11.1%
Unknown	67.7%	55.1%
Female:	49.4%	52.3%
Male:	47.6%	46.0%
Unknown	3.0%	1.7%

The Unknown category means the information was not noted on the initial lab slip, and was not gathered at the contact tracing level.

We have unfortunately experienced 16 deaths so far in July, after suffering 17 in all of June. A death from COVID-19 often comes weeks after first contracting the disease. We will continue to use all this data to monitor how Elkhart County is responding to the coronavirus crisis. We will also be watching the capacity of our local hospitals, and their ability to respond to a surge of new cases of Covid-19.

I continue to urge residents to remember that each one of us can affect the whole county. When you or I wear a mask in public, when you make an effort to distance yourself, and when you use hand sanitizer, someone will see it and copy your efforts. If we all work together, we can protect everyone! Please do your part to keep everyone safe!

Lydia Mertz, M.D.
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