

COVID-19 Update

October 29: Illinois Mitigation Update and NM Surge Modeling

Today's issue includes information about the State of Illinois mitigation guidelines and how they impact NM hospitals across the health system. It also provides an overview of the rate of positivity among NM patients and how the health system conducts surge modeling to ensure our hospitals are prepared.

ILLINOIS MITIGATION UPDATE

Gov. J.B. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced this week that COVID-19 resurgence mitigations will be implemented in Region 9 – Lake and McHenry counties – beginning at 12:01 am on Saturday, October 31. Region 9 has seen a seven-day rolling average test positivity rate of 8% or above for three consecutive days, which exceeds the threshold set for establishing mitigation measures under the state's Restore Illinois Resurgence Plan.

With the inclusion of Region 9, a total of eight of the state's 11 regions have triggered one of the state's mitigation metrics. Currently, Regions 4, 5, 7 and 8 are operating under Tier 1 mitigation measures. Region 9 will be added on October 31, and regions 10 and 11 will soon operate under Tier 1 mitigations due to sustained increases in both positivity and hospitalization rates. Region 1 is currently operating under Tier 2 mitigation measures after continuing to see a rise in positivity, with the highest rolling positivity average in the state.

Northwestern Medicine Hospital Regions

The Illinois COVID-19 region in which each NM hospital is located is listed below, along with the restrictions that apply to each region. Please view the [Illinois Region Map](#) to see the complete list of Illinois counties in each region.

NM Region	COVID-19 Region	Tier Level	Bars and Restaurants	Meetings and Events	Organized Groups
Central	11	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No indoor service No gathering while waiting Reservations required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser of 25 persons or 25% of overall room capacity 	No change
North	9				
Northwest	9				
West – CDH, Delnor, Marianjoy	8	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No indoor service No gathering while waiting 6 persons/table Reservations required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-person limit per event Does not apply to in-person school, sports or polling places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser of 25 guests or 25% of room capacity both indoors and outdoors
West – Kishwaukee, Valley West	1				

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups limited to 10 or fewer
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Regions included in Illinois Resurgence Mitigation Tier 1 can have meetings of no more than 25 people or 25% capacity, whichever is less. For Tier 2, which includes Kishwaukee and Valley West, meetings and events are limited to 10 people per event.

Resurgence Mitigation tier guidelines do not impact return-to-office protocols. Hospitals in regions 8, 9 and 11 should continue to follow their plans for returning to on-site work. Click [here](#) for on-site work resources on NM Interactive (login required).

Tiered restrictions

If sustained increases in metrics continue unabated, additional escalation of interventions may occur.

For hospitals, the following tiered actions are potential options for IDPH to implement:

- Tier 1 – Reduce elective surgeries and procedures; limit visitation at hospitals
- Tier 2 – Suspend elective surgeries and procedures; implement surge capacity
- Tier 3 – Assess need to open alternate care facility

For offices, the following tiered actions are potential options for IDPH to implement:

- Tier 1 – Continued emphasis on telework for as many workers as possible
- Tier 2 – Institute remote work for high-risk individuals; reduce office capacity with recommendations to resume remote work where possible
- Tier 3 – Institute remote work for all nonessential workers

What could cause a region to become more restrictive?

One of the following two scenarios could trigger additional restrictions:

- Sustained increase in seven-day rolling average (seven out of 10 days) in the positivity rate, **plus one of the following:**
 - Sustained seven-day increase in hospital admissions for a COVID-19-like illness
 - Reduction in hospital capacity threatening surge capabilities (ICU or medical/surgical beds available capacity under 20%)
- Three consecutive days averaging greater than or equal to an 8% positivity rate

For more information about Illinois mitigation efforts, please view the latest announcement on the illinois.gov website: [State Public Health Officials Announce COVID-19 Resurgence Mitigations to Take Effect in Region 9 on October 31, 2020.](#)

NM COVID-19 SURGE MODELING

Since June, NM has maintained a rolling seven-day average of less than 100 total COVID-19-positive patients across all of our hospitals. The increased rate of infection the community experienced during recent weeks has resulted in increased admissions. That total has increased quickly this past week, and yesterday's census reached 220 patients.

To aid in our COVID-19 response, census numbers, testing data and information from IDPH is reviewed daily to inform planning for bed capacity, staffing and personal protective equipment. Please visit the [By The Numbers page](#) on NM Interactive (login required) to view the NM weekly COVID-19 dashboard.

We will continue to monitor current COVID-19 patient volumes and leverage new public data as it becomes available to inform future projections and surge planning.

Thank you to all NM physicians and clinicians for your ongoing commitment, collaboration and leadership in providing exceptional *Patients First* care.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary A. Noskin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary A. Noskin, MD
Senior Vice President, Quality
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Chief Medical Officer
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