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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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This is a joint news release issued by the Whiteside County Health Department and Nick's Tap

COVID-19 Exposures at Nick's Tap, Rock Falls IL

October 5, 2020 – The Whiteside County Health Department and Nick's Tap are working together after an asymptomatic individual who later tested positive for COVID-19 visited the establishment during their infectious period. After working with the location to review the situation we have decided to issue a general release. This is due to the extended potential for exposure, typical visit duration and difficulty identifying all close contacts. We are working with Nick's Tap to review plans and ensure a safe environment and appreciate their efforts to socially distance, mask, and follow other guidelines to ensure a safe environment.

Exposures May Have Occurred: Wednesday, September 30th from 4:00pm to 8:00pm and Thursday, October 1st from 5:30pm to 11:00pmh

Individuals who visit or visited other times are not at risk due to this exposure.

COVID-19 will continue to be a concern for the foreseeable future, so it is the responsibility of every individual to work with and protect local businesses by following their instructions, [Illinois Executive Orders](#) and [Restore Illinois Guidelines](#).

The Whiteside County Health Department reminds residents that every interaction carries some level of risk. This risk is increased anytime individuals are attending events with symptoms of COVID-19, not physically distancing (6ft or more), not masked, present for an extended duration, spending time around people they do not know or indoors. A workplace, private gathering at someone's home, or closed event where protective measures are not observed is just as risky however, COVID-19 cases are more easily able to name their contacts so releases are not issued.

The Whiteside County Health Department asks advise **All** patrons who visited the premises during those times take special care to monitor themselves for any symptom of COVID-19, social distance and mask. Individuals with symptoms or questions should reach out to the Whiteside County Health Department at 815-626-2230 ext. 1216.

What to do if you Don't Have Symptoms

Individuals who are not experiencing symptoms may not have been close contacts and may not be infected and would not require testing. Because we cannot specifically identify those who are most at risk for contracting the virus, everyone who may have been exposed should take extra care to monitor themselves for symptoms, physically distance themselves (6ft or more) from others and wear a mask when they go out. These individuals should also consider temporarily limiting the frequency and attendance of social gatherings for 14 days after their last possible exposure.

1300 W. 2nd Street - Rock Falls, Illinois 61071 - Phone: 815-626-2230 - whitesidehealth.org

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What are the Symptoms and When Could They Start?

[Symptoms of COVID-19](#) can develop 2-14 days after exposure and may include ANY of:

- Fever or Chills
- Headache
- Loss of Taste and Smell
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Congestion or Runny Nose
- Diarrhea
- Shortness of Breath
- Sore Throat
- Muscle or Body Aches

Individuals Experiencing Symptoms

Individuals who experience any of these symptoms, that cannot be explained by previously diagnosed conditions, should immediately [self-isolate](#) at home and call the Health Department at 815-626-2230 for further instructions. If you are experiencing any [emergency warning signs](#) (such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to rouse) immediately contact your local emergency department or 911, tell them your symptoms and let them know you may have been exposed to COVID-19 so they can work to protect you and themselves.

How to Self- Isolate

To [self-isolate](#), individuals should remain at home in a separate room, bedroom and use a separate bathroom if possible. Individuals isolating should avoid contact with other household members and pets, not share personal items such as towels, cups and utensils, and wear a face covering when around others if possible. After contacting the Health Department you should contact your employer and follow [CDC Recommendations for What to do if You are Sick](#)

Testing

At this time, we only recommend testing for confirmed close contacts and those experiencing symptoms. As a reminder and individual with COVID-19 may test negative early after their infection and does not release an individual from isolation. To reduce the chances of a false negative, IDPH recommends testing 5-7 days after your last known exposure to COVID-19. For Testing:

- Contact your primary care physician to learn more about options for testing
- Utilize Illinois Mobile and Community Based Testing Sites: <https://dph.illinois.gov/testing>
- Find Other Testing Partners by Zip Code: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/testing-sites>

If you have questions please contact the IDPH COVID-19 hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or reach out to us.

Additional information is also available on the [Illinois's COVID-19](#) and [CDC COVID-19](#) websites.