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Whiteside County Cases on the Rise as Region 1 COVID-19 Hospitalizations Reach the Highest Level Since the Beginning of the Pandemic

January 11, 2022 – Cases of COVID-19 in Illinois and Whiteside County are surging. In the last 7 days, Whiteside County has had 996 new cases, a 213% increase, and a case rate of 1,805 per 100k. This case rate is 36 times higher than the CDC's case rate of 50 per 100k at which all individuals, vaccinated and unvaccinated, are recommended to mask in indoor public locations.

As cases rise, Illinois and our Region 1 Hospital systems are seeing an increase in hospitalizations. As of January 7th, Region 1 saw the highest 7 day rolling average of COVID-19 patients in the hospital since the start of the pandemic with 332 individuals hospitalized. Before this current surge, the highest 7 day average in Region 1 was 299 on November 15th, 2020.

At this time, Region 1 is also seeing the lowest number of overall ICU beds available, just 5% as of January 9th, since the start of the pandemic. While this decrease cannot entirely be attributed to COVID-19, limited ICU availability can make our Region less resilient, and mean increased transportation or wait times for individuals who are seriously ill or injured.

Slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities needs a community-wide approach with everyone taking steps to protect themselves and those around us.

Steps you should take to help protect yourself and others:

- Get your COVID-19 vaccine and recommended booster when eligible
- Wear a well-fitted mask when around others
- Social Distance at least 6 feet around individuals outside your household
- Get tested when you have symptoms (even mild ones) and limit contact with others until you know your results
- Stay home and seek appropriate medical care when you are sick
- Follow CDC and IDPH guidance if you test positive or are exposed

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.

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