



WINNEBAGO COUNTY

— ILLINOIS —

Chairman Frank Haney

Honorable Governor JB Pritzker
State Capitol
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

May 6, 2020

2100+ Missing Tests at the Rockford Community-Based Testing Site

Governor,

I am writing to ask for your help.

On Thursday, April 23, 2020, the Winnebago County Emergency Operations Center, Winnebago County Health Department, and University of Illinois College of Medicine announced a partnership with the State of Illinois, Illinois Army National Guard, etc. for a community-based testing site. Testing began the next day. As part of this process, the state contracted a third-party vendor to process the tests. To date, this third party vendor was provided with over 2100 test specimens from this particular site; however, zero tests have been reported to the Winnebago County Health Department and Illinois Department of Public Health from this vendor.

Our local team has repeatedly attempted to resolve this issue and communicate this concern with state partners, beginning as early as Monday, April 27, 2020 with the state. A 3-4 day process has evolved into a 13 day process with no end in sight. It is becoming painfully clear that nobody can explain what happened to these tests, where the tests are, as well as if or when this issue will ever be resolved. Additionally, it is our understanding that some individuals have been contacted directly by the vendor with results and some are still awaiting a call.

Meanwhile, our Emergency Operations Center, local health department, and policy team have no ability to utilize this data to:

- Aggregate data critical to determining our accurate positivity rate, a core component of the 5-step reopening plan rolled out by your office yesterday.

- Conduct timely contact tracing of positive cases for this large segment of tests. Contact tracing is also a key factor in moving from phase to phase in the 5 step state plan rolled out yesterday.
- And perhaps most importantly, this disconnection inhibits our ability to provide support to those who may be COVID-19 positive from this site.

As of May 5, 2020, the missing 2100+ tests represents over 60% of the total current pending tests and approximately 28% of all tests to date in Winnebago County. How can we accurately report out to Winnebago County residents, the North Central Regional Team, and the State of Illinois if 28% of our tests are unaccounted for?

I respectfully ask that you and your team help fix this issue for us. We do know the test specimens exist and are in possession of the third party vendor. The Illinois Department of Public Health would know how to reach them. This type of situation severely undercuts our ability to trust the data, make data driven decisions, and paint an accurate picture of our public health reality in our community and at the regional level. And, as we know, this is directly tied to our ability to reopen as laid out in the 5 phase reopening plan.

My contact information is (815) 979-4045 and frank@wincoil.us.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Frank Haney
Chairman, Winnebago County Board

