

Third Quarter 20209 WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

July 2020 – September 2020

The following issues were addressed during WGLT Newscasts during MORNING EDITION from 5 to 9 am M-F and during ALL THINGS CONSIDERED from 3-6PM, M-F, and during Sound Ideas, M-F 5p-5:30. The story lengths range from one minute to 59 minutes.

Coronavirus, Health and Medicine, Health and Safety, Politics and Government

Illinois GOP Senators Submit Ethics Proposals

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 30, 2020



Seth Perlman / AP

Illinois Senate Republicans have introduced a package of ethics reform legislation to make lawmaker corruption easier to investigate, but it's unclear how far the measures will go in the Democratic-controlled chamber.

One idea would let the state's legislative inspector general begin investigations without approval from senators and House representatives.

County Board Chair Faces Challenge From Democrat, Libertarian

By [Catrina Petersen](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 29, 2020



YouTube / WGLT

The election is fast approaching, and the [McLean County Board District 5](#) race to represent part of the town of Normal has three candidates running amid the pandemic: Incumbent Republican John McIntyre, Democrat Rachael Lund, and Libertarian Jo Ann Litwiller.

Museum's 'Who Has The Power' Series Turns Focus To Women In Politics

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 29, 2020



Gage Skidmore / Flickr

A McLean County Museum of History event series focused on “who has the power” will next turn its focus to women in politics, on the eve of another presidential election that will be won by a man.

Welcoming City Ordinance Effort Revived In Bloomington

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 28, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

Community groups demonstrated before Monday's Bloomington City Council meeting in an effort to revive efforts to pass a welcoming city ordinance.

[Bloomington Considers Creating Public Arts Commission](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 27, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

Bloomington City Council members said they're on board with an effort to display more art in public spaces in the city, but some disagree about what art they want in their neighborhood.

[Book Explores Former Gov. George Ryan's Reasons For Halting Death Penalty](#)

By [Edith Brady-Lunny](#) • Sep 24, 2020

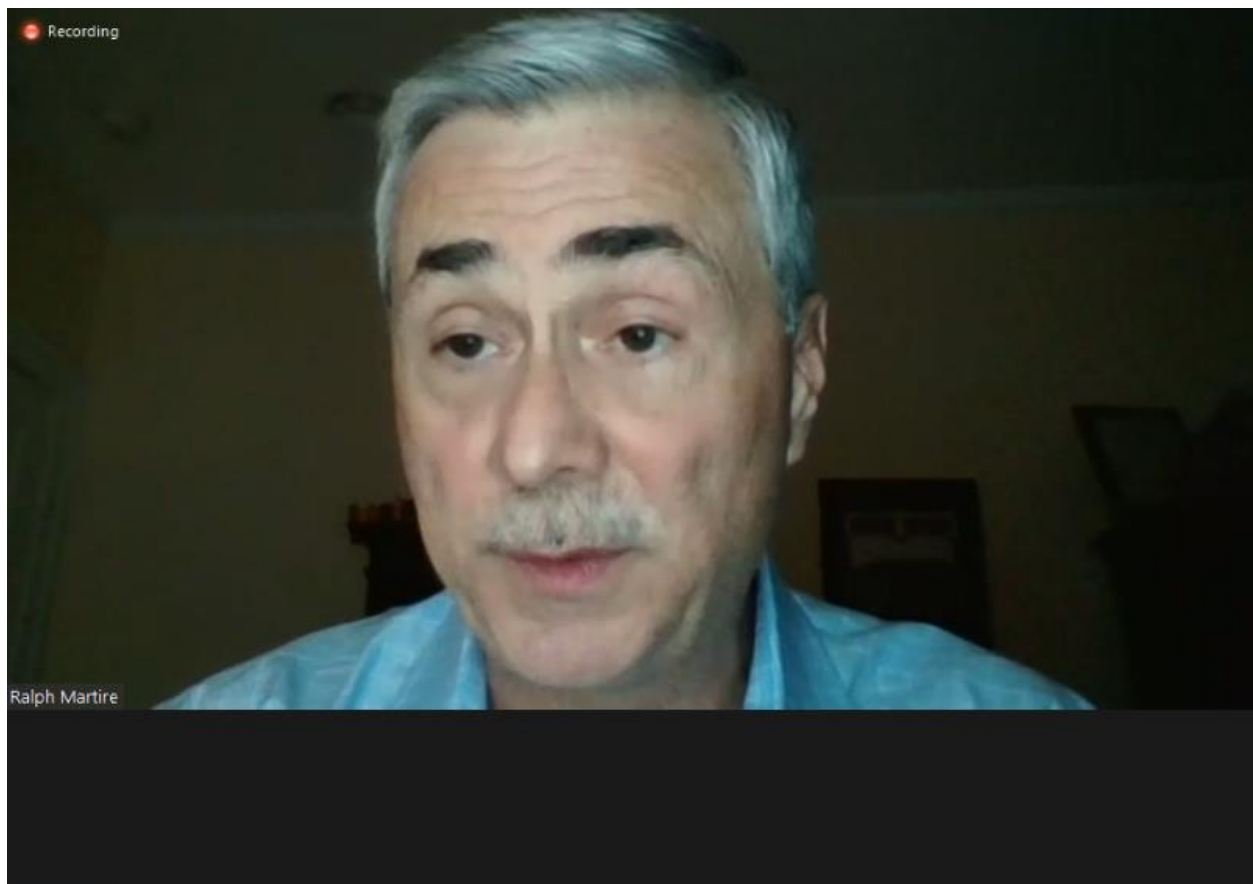


M. Spencer Green / AP

As an Illinois legislator, George Ryan believed the state's death penalty was an effective means of deterring crime and punishing those convicted of the most heinous wrongdoing.

Tax Advocacy Exec: Fair Tax Amendment Needed To Solve IL 'Revenue Problem'

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Sep 23, 2020



Breanna Grow / WGLT

Illinois didn't spend its way into a structural deficit, and it can't cut its way out.

[Two Newcomers Vie For McLean County Board District 4 Seat](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 17, 2020



The McLean County Board seat in [District 4](#) representing central and northwest Normal is an opportunity for new representation. Longtime County Board member and retired Chief Circuit Judge William Caisley [chose not to run again](#).

Government Accessibility Key To County Board District 7 Race

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 16, 2020



A McLean County Board incumbent says he's helped make county government more accessible, but his challengers say the county hasn't done enough.

Mathy Seeks Re-Election To Bloomington City Council

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 16, 2020



Cristian Jaramillo

Bloomington City Council member Jamie Mathy has announced plans to seek a second term on the council next year.

McLean County Presents ‘Optimistic’ Budget Amid Pandemic

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 15, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

McLean County government officials say their proposed 2021 budget has been able to withstand the financial hits caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Robustelli Resigns Early From McLean County Board

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 15, 2020



Jeff Smudde / WGLT

McLean County Board member Carlo Robustelli has resigned, effective at the end of the month. Robustelli was not running for a new term anyway, but a new job prompted the early resignation.

District 9 Candidates Value Health Initiatives, Differ On Approach

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Sep 14, 2020



The candidates vying for a McLean County Board seat representing Bloomington's south end share visions of a cooperative approach to handling and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a well-functioning county-run nursing home.

The two differ on their approaches and priorities representing the area.

[Bloomington Council To Consider Cannabis Store, Pay Raise For Gleason](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 11, 2020



Charlie Schlenker / WGLT

UPDATED 5:30 P.M. | The Bloomington City Council on Monday will consider plans for the city's first cannabis dispensary.

[Challengers Push Political Independence In McLean County Auditor Bids](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 1, 2020



WGLT file photos

The two challengers seeking to become McLean County auditor both say they want politics removed from the office.

Exelon Nuclear Closure Announcement Opens Energy Policy Debate

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 31, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Some political observers think the announcement last week by Exelon that it will close two northern Illinois nuclear reactors is an opening bid for legislative help.

Rankin Drops Out Of McLean County Circuit Clerk's Race

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 29, 2020



Charlie Schlenker / WGLT

Former McLean County Democratic Party Chair Erik Rankin has dropped out of the race for McLean County circuit clerk.

[Professor Touts Collaboration, Diversity In Normal Town Council Bid](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 27, 2020



Brad McMillan

A Bradley University professor and former congressional office manager has declared his candidacy for Normal Town Council.

Koos To Seek Fifth Term As Mayor Of Normal

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 26, 2020



Charlie Schlenker / WGLT

Mayor Chris Koos of Normal said Wednesday he will run for another term of office next year.

[Municipal Election Cycle Starts With Petition Pickups](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 25, 2020



Staff / WGLT

The November election campaign season is just ramping up, but some candidates already are looking ahead to next year's municipal contests.

Like attorney AJ Zimmerman, who said Tuesday he's running for Normal Town Council.

Bloomington Council OKs Arena as November Voting Site

By [Michele Steinbacher](#) • Aug 24, 2020



The Bloomington City Council gave the official OK Monday night for Grossinger Motors Arena to be used as a “universal” voting site for McLean County residents on Election Day on Nov. 3.

Senate GOP Demands Governor Open IDES Offices

By Rebecca Anzel / Capitol News Illinois • Aug 21, 2020



Seth Perlman / AP

Ten “frustrated” Republican senators demanded Gov. JB Pritzker allow state offices tasked with processing unemployment claims to reopen in a letter sent exactly five months after Illinois’ first [stay-at-home order](#) was issued.

Davis, LaHood: Congress Should Focus On Stimulus, Not Postal Service

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 20, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

Two central Illinois congressmen headed to Washington, D.C. this weekend for a special session said it's not the reason they think they should be going.

McLean County Board Members Raise Concerns About Proposed Rules On Public Gatherings

By [Dana Vollmer](#) & [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 20, 2020



Ryan Denham / WGLT

McLean County Board members are raising a collective eyebrow at a proposed ordinance that would regulate public gatherings on county property.

Political Campaigns Are Going Virtual, But That's Not All Bad For Candidates — Or Voters

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Aug 19, 2020



Brian Snyder / Pool Reuters via AP

Political campaigning is a social endeavor. But like the rest of us, candidates have had to shift to virtual platforms to connect with voters and get their message heard.

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul Joining Federal Lawsuit Against USPS

By Rebecca Anzel | Capitol News Illinois • Aug 18, 2020



Seth Perlman / AP

Operational shifts undertaken by the United States Postal Service in recent weeks, including spending cuts and equipment removal, are illegal, Illinois' top lawyer and 13 other attorneys general argued in a federal lawsuit filed Tuesday.

Bloomington To Study Indigenous Peoples Swap For Columbus Day

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 17, 2020



Tim Shelley / WGLT/WCBU

Bloomington city staff will examine converting the Columbus Day holiday to one honoring indigenous people, with a majority of the city council indicating at least some support for researching the question during a Committee of the Whole session Monday night.

Former Illinois Gov. James Thompson, 'Big Jim,' Dies At 84

By AP • Aug 15, 2020



M. Spencer Green / AP

Former Illinois Gov. James R. Thompson has died. He was 84.

Thompson was known as “Big Jim” during a long career that eventually made him the state’s longest-serving chief executive.

His wife, Jayne, told the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-Times that he died shortly after 8 p.m. Friday at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago. The Tribune, citing a police report, reported Thompson had been recovering there for several weeks after suffering heart problems.

B-N NAACP: As VP Pick, Harris A 'Powerful' Symbol For Black Girls

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 14, 2020



Carolyn Kaster / AP

The Bloomington-Normal NAACP says Joe Biden's selection of Kamala Harris as his vice presidential nominee is more than historic.

Pritzker: All Regions Of The State 'Going The Wrong Direction'

By Peter Hancock / Capitol News Illinois • Aug 13, 2020



Capitol News Illinois

Illinois has now recorded more than 200,000 cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic first arrived in the state.

Supreme Court Moves Bailey's Lawsuit To Sangamon County

By Rebecca Anzel / Capitol News Illinois • Aug 13, 2020



Capitol News Illinois

Illinois' highest court on Tuesday moved Rep. Darren Bailey's ongoing lawsuit to Sangamon County, effectively ending a Clay County court's role in the case regarding the limits of Gov. JB Pritzker's authority to respond to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

[Democrats From McLean County Sign Letter Calling On Madigan To Step Down](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 11, 2020



John O'Connor / AP

Several McLean County Board and Bloomington City Council members are calling for Michael Madigan to step down as Illinois House speaker and leader of the Democratic Party of Illinois.

Pritzker Issues New Mask Orders

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 7, 2020



Carleigh Gray / WGLT

Gov. JB Pritzker has created new enforcement rules for mask wearing.

Pritzker said the statewide emergency order allows warnings and then fines of up to \$2,500 against businesses and other organizations that do not ensure that people wear masks on the premises. He said Friday during a news conference many businesses already do this, but some do not.

Jail COVID Outbreak Raises Concerns About Crowding

By [Michele Steinbacher](#) • Aug 4, 2020



The crowding of the McLean County Jail, and its relationship to a [COVID-19 outbreak there](#), took center stage at Tuesday's county board justice committee meeting.

One Normal Plaza Concerns Head to Planning Commission

By [Michele Steinbacher](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 3, 2020



Normal's potential rezoning of residential areas near One Normal Plaza won't be publicly addressed until at least September when residents' concerns can be made in person, town leaders said during Monday night's city council meeting.

Utility Costs To Soon Catch Up With Consumers Due To COVID-19

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Aug 3, 2020



Mark Turnaukus / Flickr / CC-by 2.0

The looming end to a statewide rent moratorium is not the only thing sparking financial fear. A ban on utility shutoffs can't last forever—and a lot of renters and homeowners are behind on their bills.

Statue Protest Context Difficult To Create

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 29, 2020



Tim Shelley / WGLT/WCBU

A lot of statues in America have become problematic. People want to tear them down because they represent a part of history to be disavowed, or embody once heroic themes that now seem shameful.

Bloomington Budget Weathers COVID-19 With Reserves

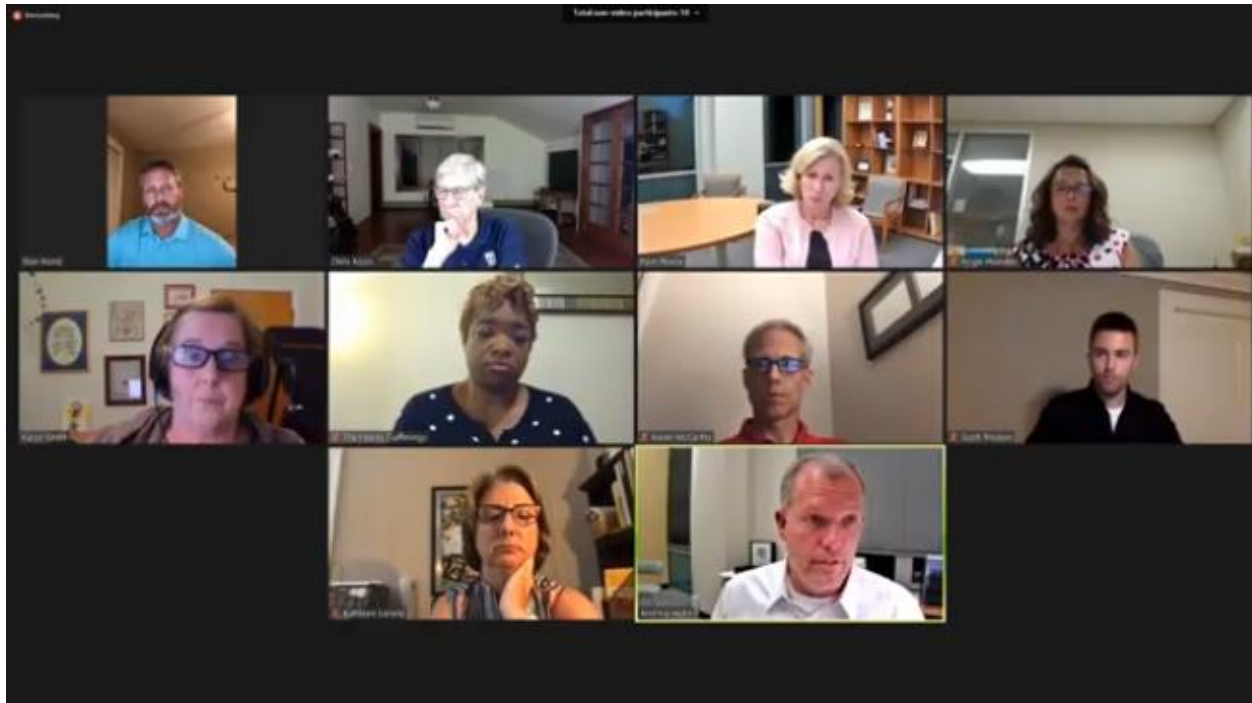
By [Michele Steinbacher](#) • Jul 27, 2020



Bloomington's strong budget reserves helped it weather COVID-19 this spring, but the pandemic's unpredictability means the city's finances aren't yet in the clear, leaders heard during Monday night's city council meeting.

Normal Budget Adjustments Carry Town Through Pandemic

By [Michele Steinbacher](#) • Jul 21, 2020



Michele Steinbacher / WGLT

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit Normal's revenue stream, but less than planners feared, thanks to some adjustments made this spring, the Town Council heard at Monday night's meeting.

[Normal Mayor Pushes Back On Appointment Opposition](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 7, 2020



Cristian Jaramillo / WGLT

Normal Mayor Chris Koos offered a rebuttal to council member Stan Nord's view of council involvement in appointments to boards and commissions during a WGLT interview Tuesday.

[Labor Day Parade Canceled](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 7, 2020



Bloomington-Normal Trades and Labor Assembly / Facebook

The pandemic has caused the cancellation of another of the big annual Bloomington-Normal event.

Londrigan, Davis On Opposite Sides Of Health Vote

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 1, 2020



The two candidates for the 13th Congressional District say they want to improve healthcare and lower costs, but their preferred methods are very different.

CORONAVIRUS

U of I Dials Back Statements About FDA Authorization For Its COVID-19 Test

By [Christine Herman](#) & [Lee V. Gaines](#) • Sep 30, 2020



Christine Herman / Illinois Newsroom

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's saliva-based COVID-19 test has never operated under emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, despite prior claims that it did, an FDA spokesperson tells Illinois Newsroom.

State Health Officials Issue Halloween Guidance

By Jerry Nowicki / Capitol News Illinois • Sep 30, 2020



Blueroomstream.com

The state announced Halloween COVID-19 guidance encouraging social distancing while trick-or-treating, and the governor took questions in a virtual news conference Wednesday.

4 Violations Issued Related To Normal's Ban On Large Gatherings Near ISU

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 30, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Four people have been issued \$750 fines for allegedly violating the Town of Normal's COVID-19 executive order prohibiting large gatherings near Illinois State University's campus, officials said.

Health Department, ISU Both Report 3 New COVID-19 Cases

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Sep 30, 2020

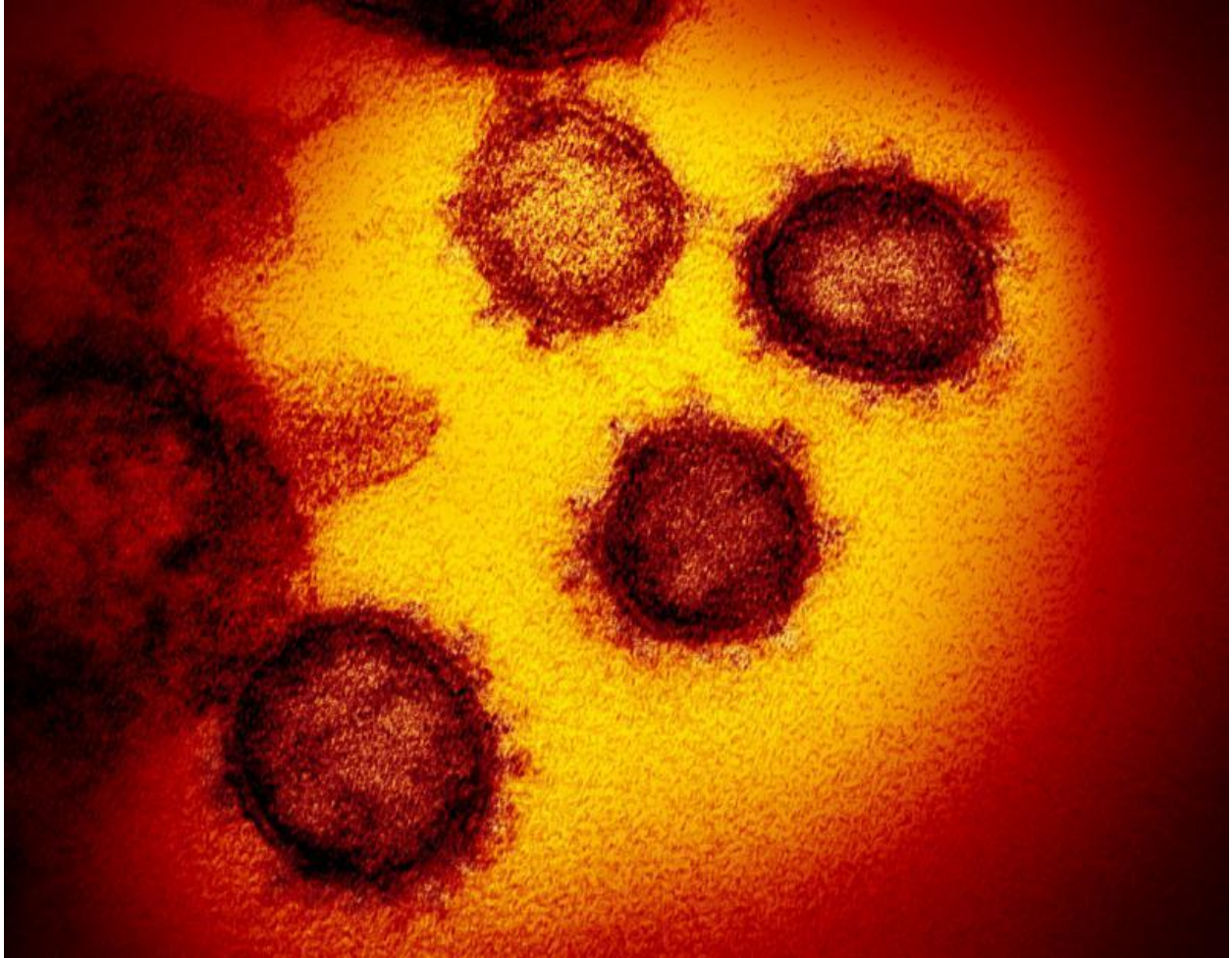


Emily Bollinger / WGLT

The local COVID-19 testing positivity rate dipped to 2.4% Wednesday, with the McLean County Health Department (MCHD) reporting three new confirmed cases.

McLean County Adds 8 COVID Cases; 2 More Hospitalized

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 29, 2020



NIAID-RML / AP

McLean County health officials announced eight new confirmed coronavirus cases Tuesday as the county's seven-day [testing positivity rate increased to 2.8%](#), still below state and national rates.

McLean County's Active COVID-19 Caseload Falls To Lowest Level In A Month

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Sep 28, 2020



Reditus Labs

McLean County's COVID-19 [testing positivity rate held at 2.6%](#), as health officials reported 15 new confirmed cases Monday.

County's Testing Positivity Rate Dips Below 3%

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 27, 2020



Ashley Binkowski / WGLT

McLean County's testing positivity rate continued to fall Sunday, even as 44 new coronavirus cases were reported.

[23rd COVID-Related Death Reported In McLean County](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 26, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

UPDATED 11:55 a.m. | A 23rd person from McLean County has died after contracting COVID-19, the health department reported Saturday.

McLean County Adds 19 COVID Cases; Positivity Rate Drops

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 25, 2020



Reditus

McLean County health officials reported 19 new confirmed coronavirus cases Friday as the number of active cases and positivity rate continue to drop.

No Sinks, Restrooms Keep Normal Public Library Closed For Now

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 24, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Hand-washing is one of the best ways to stop the spread of COVID-19. And it's also the main reason why the Normal Public Library is still closed, even as other public spaces have reopened.

[McLean County Reports 2 More COVID-Related Deaths](#)

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Sep 24, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

UPDATED 6:30 p.m. | McLean County health officials are reporting two more COVID-related deaths, including the youngest area resident to succumb to the virus to date.

Mother Mourns McLean County's Youngest COVID Death: 'She Just Didn't Deserve This'

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 24, 2020



Obituary Photo

As Andrea Schwalb of Bloomington fought for her life, she had a nickname for COVID-19.

District 87 Leader: Hybrid Learning Model Has Worked

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 24, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

District 87 parents have said the remote learning experience has generally been good, except for those with young children.

Pandemic Fare Loss To Top \$700K For Connect Transit

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 23, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Bloomington Normal's public bus system will continue free rides through the first week in November.

The Connect Transit board has suspended fare collections on fixed route and Connect Mobility Paratransit services as part of its response to the pandemic.

State-Regulated Utilities Extend Shutoff Moratorium To Winter 2021

By Raymon Troncoso / Capitol News Illinois • Sep 23, 2020



"Thermostat" by midnightcomm is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Several state-regulated utilities have voluntarily extended a moratorium on disconnections into next year after requests from the Illinois Commerce Commission.

[Record 12 People Now Hospitalized With COVID In McLean County](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 23, 2020



Staff / WGLT

There are now 12 people in McLean County with COVID-19 who are hospitalized—a new record high.

[CIRA Service To Detroit Resumes After 4-Year Hiatus](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 22, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

Electric vehicle production in Normal is helping boost another transportation option: air travel.

A Tale Of Two Schools: COVID-19 Testing On Illinois Campuses

By [Dana Vollmer](#) & [Lee V. Gaines](#) • Sep 22, 2020



Lee V. Gaines / Illinois Newsroom

Marisa Hardwick isn't surprised there are now more than twice as many cases of COVID-19 on the University of Illinois' Urbana campus than previously predicted by university researchers.

McLean County Sees 20th COVID Death; Hospitalizations At Highest Point Since May

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 22, 2020



Staff / WGLT

UPDATED 3:35 p.m. | A 20th person from McLean County has died after contracting COVID-19, the health department said Tuesday.

[Just 15 New COVID Cases Reported In McLean County](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 21, 2020



Reditus

McLean County on Monday reported its fewest number of new COVID-19 cases in over a month, as its testing positivity rate held steady.

[McLean County's Newest COVID Cases Spread Across Many Age Groups](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 20, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

McLean County's COVID-19 testing positivity rate continued to fall Sunday, as public health officials reported community spread across many age groups.

[County's COVID Numbers Show Improvement After College Surge](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 19, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County's COVID-19 numbers continued to improve Saturday, with hundreds of people moving into "recovered" status and the testing positivity rate falling again.

Slew of COVID Complaints In McLean County Show Frustration, Confusion

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 19, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

Hundreds of complaints in Bloomington-Normal about pandemic safety rules show a disunited public attitude toward those rules, widely varying levels of public awareness about them, and striking economic pressure on businesses struggling to survive in the current landscape.

State Farm, Country Financial Delay Return To Office Until 2021

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 18, 2020



Ashley Binkowski / WGLT

State Farm and Country Financial plan to keep most of their employees working from home through at least the end of the year because of the pandemic.

McLean County Dropped From COVID Warning List

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Sep 18, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

UPDATED: 1:40 P.M. | McLean County has been dropped from the Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) COVID-19 warning list as the county's testing positivity rate continues to fall.

[Lincoln College Preps Return To Classrooms After COVID Spike Subsides](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 17, 2020



Lincoln College

Lincoln College will go back to hybrid learning Monday after a two-week quarantine and virtual learning period.

McLean County Sees 19th COVID-Related Death As Positivity Rate Continues To Drop

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Sep 17, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Health officials are reporting McLean County's 19th coronavirus-related death since the start of the pandemic.

It's Too Early To Tell Where 'Problem' Campuses Will Be, Says Public Health Expert

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Sep 17, 2020

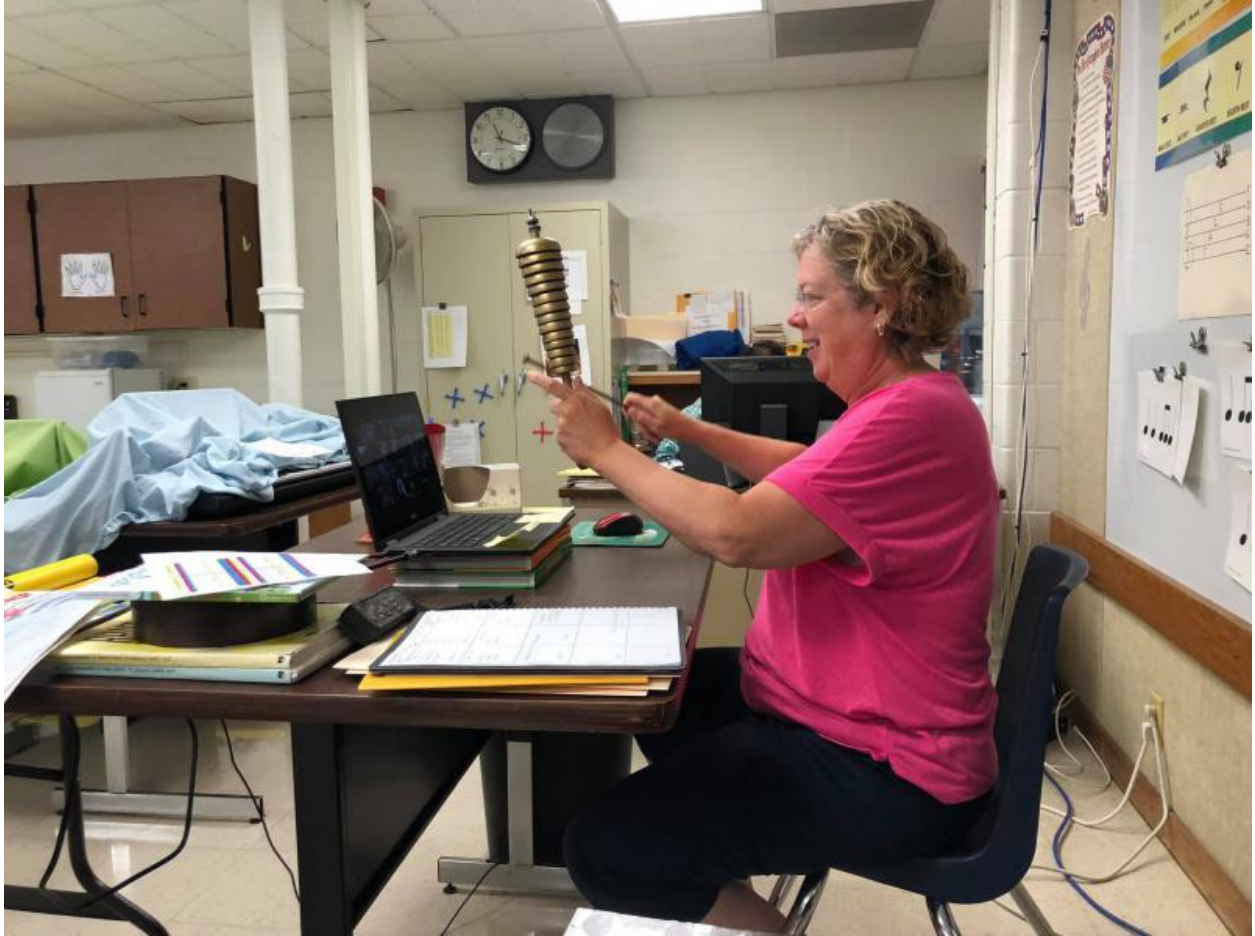


Emily Bollinger / WGLT

Comparing colleges' COVID-19 numbers can be tricky because of the variety of approaches to testing and reporting data. A lot of Midwestern college campuses bear watching, though.

B-N School With More Low-Income Families Offers Unique View Of Remote Learning

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 17, 2020

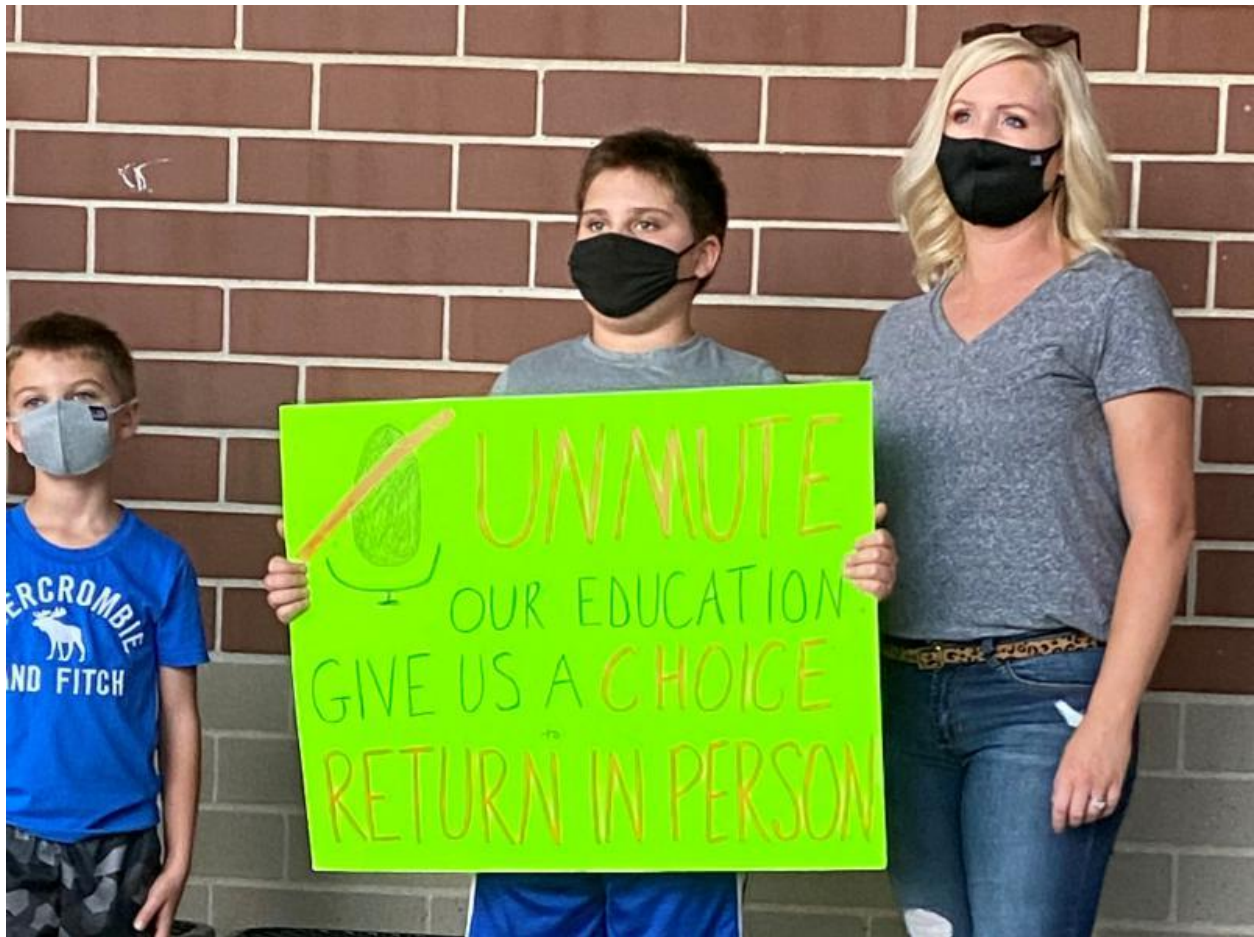


Facebook / Irving Elementary School

Remote learning presents unique challenges for students from low-income families, though the principal at one such school in west Bloomington says so far they've managed quite well.

'We Are Drowning': Parents Push Unit 5 For In-Person Learning

By [Sarah Nardi](#) • Sep 16, 2020



Sarah Nardi/WGLT

Unit 5 Superintendent Kristen Weikle announced Wednesday night a planned return to in-person learning, saying the district hopes to bring students back to the classroom beginning in October “assuming that the metrics are such that we’ll be able to do so.”

ISU To Begin Requiring Students Get Tested For COVID-19 'Very Soon'

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 16, 2020



Illinois State University

Illinois State University will soon require students to be tested regularly for COVID-19, a shift in strategy that epidemiologists say is key to catching the coronavirus early, university officials said Wednesday.

County's Testing Positivity Rate Falls Again; ISU Adds 7 Cases

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 16, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County's COVID-19 [testing positivity rate](#) continued to fall Wednesday, as 28 new coronavirus cases were reported.

Ferrero Seeks 'Proactive' Approach To COVID In Hosting Testing Site

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 15, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

Candy maker Ferrero USA says the free COVID-19 testing site it set up outside its Bloomington plant is an effort to be proactive in its efforts to help the community contain the coronavirus.

[McLean County Testing Positivity Rate Ticks Up; 37 New Cases Reported](#)

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Sep 15, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County health officials on Tuesday reported 37 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, as the county's [testing positivity rate rose slightly](#) to 6.7%.

LeRoy High School, Tri-Valley Shift To Remote Learning After COVID Cases

By [Eric Stock](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 14, 2020



tri-valley3.org

UPDATED 6:10 p.m. | Two districts in McLean County that began the school year with in-person learning are shifting back to remote learning after reporting several COVID-19 cases.

During COVID, B-N Health Experts Say Flu Shot Is 'More Important Than Ever'

By [Catrina Petersen](#) • Sep 14, 2020



LM Otero / AP

McLean County doctors and public health professionals say the pandemic has made it more important than ever to get a flu shot, and that getting one won't increase your chances of getting COVID-19 or make it worse if you do.

County's Testing Positivity Rate Dips Below 'Warning' Threshold

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 14, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

McLean County public health officials on Monday [reported just 24 new coronavirus cases](#)—the lowest single-day total in over three weeks.

[Bloomington, ISU Add COVID Testing Sites This Week](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 14, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

Two additional COVID-19 mobile testing sites are coming this week to Bloomington-Normal.

County's Testing Positivity Rate Falls Again; Just 4 New Students Test Positive

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 13, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County's [testing positivity rate](#) has fallen to its lowest level in nearly three weeks, the health department reported Sunday.

[ISU Administrators Push Back On COVID-19 'Myths,' Criticism](#)

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Sep 12, 2020



Breanna Grow / WGLT

Illinois State University administrators fended off criticism and debunked myths surrounding COVID-19 on campus during a virtual update to the Board of Trustees on Saturday.

YouTube Punishes Pranksters Nelk Boys After ISU Visit; County Adds 77 COVID Cases

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 12, 2020



Instagram

UPDATED 7:35 p.m. | The YouTube stars whose COVID-reckless visit to Illinois State University sparked outrage have been temporarily stripped of the right to make money on the platform.

COVID-19 Prevention Drug Trial Begins In Bloomington-Normal

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 11, 2020



Introducing the BLAZE-2 Study

Heritage/Eli Lilly

A health care company based in Bloomington is part of a [new clinical trial of a drug to prevent COVID-19](#).

McLean County Adds 105 COVID Cases; Most Are College-Aged

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 11, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

UPDATED 4:50 p.m. | McLean County health officials announced 105 new confirmed coronavirus cases Friday as the county and Illinois State University's seven-day positivity rates both dipped below 10%.

[Bloomington Bar Facing Violations Hires Attorney At Center Of COVID Resistance](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 10, 2020



Google Maps

The owner of a Bloomington bar accused of repeatedly violating COVID-19 safety rules has hired a well-known attorney who has been at the center of resistance to public health guidance statewide.

County Sees 18th COVID Death; ISU Adds 10 More Cases

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 10, 2020



Staff / WGLT

An 18th McLean County resident has died after contracting COVID, officials said Thursday.

ISU College's Tech Squad Recruits Students To Help With Common Issues

By [Darnysha Mitchell](#) • Sep 10, 2020



Mike Regilio / ISU

Switching to online and hybrid learning continues to be an adjustment for students, staff, and faculty at Illinois State University. To help with the adjustment, ISU's [College of Arts and Sciences](#) has recruited students to help individuals navigate the technology world.

[Health Department Board Hears Complaints About ISU, Explores Enforcement Options](#)

By [Sarah Nardi](#) • Sep 10, 2020



Sarah Nardi / Sarah Nardi

The McLean County Board of Health began its meeting Wednesday night with a barrage of public comment.

Housing Project On Hold As ISU Navigates \$44M Hit From COVID

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 9, 2020



Gilbane/Mackey Mitchell Architects / Illinois State University

Illinois State students will have to wait a bit longer for a new on-campus housing complex, an expanded nursing simulation lab, and improvements to Milner Library as the university tries to navigate an expected \$44.2 million financial blow from COVID-19.

Pritzker: Students Should Stay On Campus If They Quarantine

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 9, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

During a visit to Illinois State University on Wednesday, Gov. JB Pritzker commended the Town of Normal for putting in needed restrictions, but said it will take personal responsibility to control the coronavirus.

[ISU Seeks To Find, Discipline Students Who Attended Large Outdoor Party](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 9, 2020



Instagram

Illinois State University President Larry Dietz said Wednesday he's disappointed in the students who were out at a large outdoor party in the middle of a pandemic, and the university will consider suspending students who attended.

New COVID-19 Cases Up Slightly After Testing Slowdown

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Sep 9, 2020



Reditus Labs

The McLean County Health Department [logged 36 new confirmed COVID-19 cases](#) Wednesday. That's more than the previous day, but still the second lowest single-day total in the past three weeks.

[B-N Rotary Clubs Foster Friendship, Give Back — Even Remotely](#)

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Sep 8, 2020



Facebook / Uptown Normal

Community service clubs are in it for the people. Members socialize. They hold events in the community. They give to their neighbors through service projects. All of those things are hard to pull off in a socially distanced way, but Bloomington-Normal rotary clubs are adapting.

Heartland Head Start Returns To Classrooms With 'Soft' Opening

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Sep 8, 2020



Heartland Head Start

Heartland Head Start has welcomed some children back into classrooms for the first time since mid-March.

Chief Judge: Courts Ready To Hear Quarantine Order Cases For Those Refusing To Isolate

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 8, 2020



Ralph Weisheit / WGLT

The Eleventh Judicial Circuit's chief judge says he and his colleagues are ready to hear requests for orders that would force COVID-positive people to quarantine if they're not willing to do so voluntarily.

County Sees Fewer New Cases Amid Testing Slowdown At ISU

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 8, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

UPDATED 12:45 p.m. | McLean County on Tuesday reported its lowest number of new COVID-19 cases in three weeks, though a slowdown in testing at Illinois State University is likely a big reason why.

Multicultural Leadership Program Seeks Focus On COVID, Racial Justice

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 8, 2020



Multicultural Leadership Institute

A program that trains aspiring leaders in McLean County has some new leaders of its own and a new vision to address two of the biggest issues of our time.

9 Children Among New COVID Cases; Testing Positivity Rate Falls

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 7, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

Two more people with COVID-19 are hospitalized, as McLean County health officials on Monday [reported 46 new cases](#) across many age groups, including nine children.

[Less Testing At ISU As County's Positivity Rate Hits New High](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 6, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

McLean County health officials reported 55 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, the lowest number in over a week. But that came amid a steep decline in testing at Illinois State University, where on-campus testing sites are closed for the Labor Day weekend.

[As COVID Spreads, County No Longer Providing Ages, Ethnicity Of New Cases](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 5, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County's testing positivity rate reached a new high Saturday, as authorities [warned against risky behavior](#) over the Labor Day weekend.

BPD To Do COVID Compliance Checks Over Labor Day Weekend

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 4, 2020



Amy Niebur / WGLT

The Bloomington Police Department said Friday it will conduct compliance checks at bars this holiday weekend, the latest new strategy aimed at curbing the spread of COVID-19 in McLean County.

ISU Enrollment Steady Despite COVID-19 Concerns

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 4, 2020



WGLT

Illinois State University admissions officials said pandemic-related fears of a precipitous decline in enrollment did not materialize, with total enrollment falling by less than 1% from the previous year.

McLean County Placed On State's Warning List; 17th Death Reported

By [Dana Vollmer](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 4, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

UPDATED 2:05 p.m. | The Illinois Department of Public Health on Friday [placed McLean County into a warning level](#) after an alarming spike in COVID-19 cases and testing positivity rate.

ISU Adds 68 New COVID Cases; Positivity Rate Resumes Its Climb

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 3, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

Illinois State University [reported 68 new cases of COVID-19](#) among its students Thursday, as the county's [testing positivity rate increased](#) again.

U Of I Officials: A Few Students' 'Poor Choices' Could Get Everyone Sent Home

By [Christine Herman](#) & [Lee V. Gaines](#) • Sep 2, 2020



Christine Herman / Illinois Newsroom

UPDATED 7:30 a.m. | About a thousand students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have [tested positive](#) for COVID-19 since twice-a-week coronavirus testing became mandatory for all students on Aug. 16.

Democrats Suggest County Has 'Lost Control' Of COVID-19 Spread

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 2, 2020



YouTube

Several Democrats on the McLean County Board are expressing concern that the community has “lost control” of COVID-19’s spread and raising questions about why the health department’s contact tracing program has not grown more quickly.

[City Suspends Downtown Shuttles To Curb COVID's Spread](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 2, 2020



Cristian Jaramillo / WGLT

The City of Bloomington moved Wednesday to suspend the operation of downtown shuttles, calling them a "public health and safety risk" due to COVID-19.

McLean County Sees Near-Record Hospitalizations; ISU Adds 87 Student Cases

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 2, 2020



Illinois State University

UPDATED 5:55 p.m. | There are now nine people hospitalized with COVID-19 in McLean County—including three in intensive care—as Illinois State University reported 87 new cases among its students.

Testing Positivity Rate Reaches 10.7%, As MCHD Reports 71 New COVID-19 Cases

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Sep 1, 2020



Reditus Labs

McLean County health officials confirmed 71 new COVID-19 cases Tuesday, with the county's [testing positivity rate increasing to 10.7%](#).

How ISU Is Faring With COVID-19 Compared To Other Midwest College Towns

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 1, 2020



Charlie Neibergall / AP

More than 1,023 Illinois State University students have tested positive for COVID-19—an alarming number given it's only about two weeks into the fall semester.

ISU Adds 39 New Cases; County's Positivity Rate Climbs To 10.3%

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 31, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County's COVID-19 testing positivity rate ticked up again Monday as Illinois State University reported 39 more cases among its students.

[ISU To Set Up Coronavirus Testing Lab](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 30, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

The huge gap between the capacity at the University of Illinois and the capacity at Illinois State University to test for the virus that causes COVID-19 may soon disappear.

Positivity Rate Hits Double Digits; ISU Adds 187 COVID Cases

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 30, 2020



Illinois State University

McLean County health officials on Sunday urged the public to stop “placing blame” for a recent surge in COVID-19 that has now driven the local testing positivity rate into the double digits.

ISU Adds 234 COVID Cases; County Positivity Rate Keeps Rising

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 29, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

Illinois State University reported 234 new coronavirus cases Saturday as McLean County's COVID-19 testing positivity rate rose to 8.7%.

[County Health Leader Pleads For Personal Responsibility Amid COVID Spike](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 28, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

McLean County Health Department Administrator Jessica McKnight said Friday it's too soon to say whether the county will see restrictions or other mitigation actions stemming from the recent surge in coronavirus cases, but that it's up to everyone to take precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.

Town Moves To Prohibit Large Parties Near ISU, Require Bar Patrons To Stay Seated

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 28, 2020



Jeff Smudde / WGLT

UPDATED 5:45 p.m. | The Town of Normal moved Friday to slow the alarming spread of COVID-19 among Illinois State University students by temporarily prohibiting large gatherings near campus and requiring bar and restaurant patrons to be seated.

102 More ISU Students Test Positive For COVID-19

By [Dana Vollmer](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 28, 2020



Reditus Labs

UPDATED 2:55 p.m. | An additional 102 Illinois State University students have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past day, the university said Friday.

[Help Wanted: Tutors As B-N Schools Begin Online](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 27, 2020



Charles Frost

Multiple organizations, including the YMCA, YWCA and the Children's Discovery Museum, have [stepped in to offer day care and remote learning](#) help for District 87 and Unit 5 students to start the school year.

But there may not be enough help for everyone who needs it.

County's COVID Positivity Rate Moves Higher Into 'Warning' Level

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 27, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

McLean County's testing positivity rate ticked up higher into the warning zone Thursday, as Illinois State University reported 57 more students have contracted COVID-19.

[Unit 5 School Board Tackles Parent Concerns, Budget Woes](#)

By [Sarah Nardi](#) • Aug 26, 2020



WGLT

Wednesday's Unit 5 school board meeting got off to an emotional start when some parents expressed their frustration with remote learning.

[Appellate Court: Pritzker Has Authority To Set Inmate Transfer Protocols](#)

By Jerry Nowicki | Illinois Capitol News • Aug 26, 2020



Capitol News Illinois file photo

A state appellate court has temporarily halted a Logan County court order that required state prisons to accept inmates from county jails.

Panic, Frustration For Young Bloomington Family After COVID-19 Moves In

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 26, 2020



Courtesy

When Jason Borchardt of Bloomington learned of his positive COVID-19 test result last week, he panicked. But not for himself. For his 8-month-old daughter.

McLean County's Testing Positivity Rate Climbs Past 8% With 50 New Cases Reported

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Aug 26, 2020



Staff / WGLT

UPDATED 4 p.m. | McLean County's COVID-19 testing positivity rate has surpassed 8%—a benchmark that, if it continues, could trigger tighter restrictions under the [Restore Illinois](#) plan.

[ISU Professor: Herd Immunity Won't Happen On Its Own](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 26, 2020



Andres Kudacki / AP

An Illinois State University biomathematician is reminding people that herd immunity won't be a magical COVID-19 solution that happens on its own without widespread vaccination.

In-Person Fundraiser Fuels Social Media Safety Buzz

By [Eric Stock](#) & Charlie Schlenker • Aug 25, 2020



Illinois State University

A weekend fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club held indoors at Rob Dob's Restaurant that attracted donors and community leaders also attracted social media criticism, though guidelines were followed.

McLean County COVID Positivity Rate Rises With 43 New Cases

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 25, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

McLean County's COVID-19 [testing positivity rate rose to 7.4%](#) on Tuesday as the county announced 43 new coronavirus cases.

[ISU President Carefully Watches COVID Numbers Climb](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 24, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Illinois State University President Larry Dietz said Monday he's closely monitoring the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases among students.

Regional Mitigations Not Imminent, But McLean County Could Slip Into 'Warning' Level

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 24, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Despite an alarming spike in cases, McLean County still has time to avoid backtracking into additional state-required mitigations, as other parts of the state have experienced.

McLean County is part of Region 2, which also includes Peoria, LaSalle, and 17 other counties. The region's testing positivity rate is 5.9%. A region faces additional mitigations when it records three straight days with a positivity rate of 8% or above, or if there is a sustained increase in positivity rate, and more hospital admissions or declining hospital capacity.

At ISU, 273 Students Have Tested Positive For COVID-19

By [Eric Stock](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 24, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

Illinois State University already has seen 273 students test positive for COVID-19, a university spokesperson said Monday.

98 New Cases Reported As Surge Strains Contact Tracing Capacity

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 23, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

McLean County's COVID-19 testing positivity rate shot up Sunday above statewide and national averages, as a [surge of 98 new cases](#) overwhelmed local contact-tracing capacity.

MCHD Points To Bars, Maskless Parties As Key Drivers In COVID Spike

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 22, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

Public health officials on Saturday pointed the finger at crowded bars and large in-person gatherings as key factors in McLean County's surge in cases – especially among college-aged young people.

[Classes Are Online, But Many Reasons Keep College Students In Normal](#)

By [Catrina Petersen](#) • Aug 21, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

The hustle of running late to class, the passion students have for a course, and the persistence of earning a degree—it's all been moved online.

Student Landlord To Close Common Areas, Disperse Crowds At The Lodge Near ISU

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 21, 2020



Cindy Le / WGLT

The largest student apartment landlord in Normal said Friday it will close common areas and disperse crowds at its marquee property in response to COVID-19 concerns about large gatherings.

[Pandemic Stirs More Uncertainty For ISU Athletics](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 21, 2020



Jeff Smudde / WGLT

Illinois State University Athletics Director Larry Lyons said coaches and athletic department staff are reinforcing the need for mask compliance and social distancing after seeing a rise in coronavirus cases among student-athletes.

Positivity Rate, Cases Climb Again As McLean County Sets New Records

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 21, 2020



Emily Bollinger / WGLT

UPDATED 3:20 p.m. | The number of Illinois State University students who've tested positive for COVID-19 climbed to 70 on Friday, as McLean County's testing positivity rate continued to rise.

Davis, LaHood: Congress Should Focus On Stimulus, Not Postal Service

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 20, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

Two central Illinois congressmen headed to Washington, D.C. this weekend for a special session said it's not the reason they think they should be going.

[As COVID Cases Rise, McLean County Expands Contact Tracing](#)

By [Sarah Nardi](#) • Aug 19, 2020



Sarah Nardi / WGLT

The McLean County Health Department is gearing up to expand contact tracing efforts in response to rising cases of COVID-19.

[LeRoy Rejects Mask Ordinance Following State Order](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 19, 2020



Staff / WGLT

The first McLean County community is on record opposing a mask ordinance.

State Farm Holiday Classic Canceled Due To Pandemic

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 19, 2020



State Farm Holiday Classic/Facebook

One of the largest annual sporting events in McLean County, the State Farm Holiday Classic basketball tournament, has been canceled due to concerns over the pandemic.

[IWU Monitors COVID Outbreak Among Students](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 19, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Illinois Wesleyan University said it is responding to a cluster of 10 COVID-19 cases among students.

ISU Student COVID Cases Rise To 50+ As County Sets New Record

By [Eric Stock](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 19, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

UPDATED 5:30 p.m. | Over 50 Illinois State University students have now tested positive for COVID-19, including dozens in just the past week, university officials said Wednesday.

Bloomington-Normal Sports Bars Struggle With Less Sports On TV

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 19, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

Sports bars in Bloomington already face two strikes as fall approaches.

HCC Sees Sharp Minority And First Gen Enrollment Drop Amid Pandemic

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 18, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Heartland Community College enrollment on the first day of classes was down 8.6% among students and 8.4% in credit hours.

[ISU Warns Students On Parties, Opens More Testing Sites](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 18, 2020



Student Health Services / Illinois State University

More testing options are now available for students at Illinois State University, as President Larry Dietz warned Redbirds against attending large off-campus parties.

McLean County Pushes Mask Education Over Enforcement

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 18, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

Gov. JB Pritzker's [new emergency mask order](#) puts the burden of enforcement on businesses, schools and daycares.

McLean County Adds 3 COVID Cases; 2 Out Of The Hospital

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 18, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

McLean County health officials announced three new coronavirus cases on Tuesday, while two COVID-19 patients have been released from hospitalization.

[New ISU Class Explores How Pandemics And Plagues Shape The Human Condition](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 18, 2020



Lefteris Pitarakis / AP

It's hard to see past COVID-19, to picture what life will be like when the coronavirus is not the most important thing in front of us—and to conceive of all the ways it will stay with us as cultural artifact. (And not just the ubiquity of Zoom meetings.)

McLean County Sees 16th Death Tied To COVID; New Single-Day Record For Cases

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 17, 2020



Staff / WGLT

A McLean County woman in her 60s has died after contracting COVID-19. She is the county's 16th coronavirus-related death.

More COVID-19 Hospitalizations Reported In McLean County

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 16, 2020



Staff / WGLT

There are now six people with COVID-19 hospitalized in McLean County—the most since late May during a deadly outbreak at a Bloomington nursing home.

One Person In ICU As County Adds 11 More COVID Cases

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 15, 2020



Staff / WGLT

UPDATED 4:15 p.m. | One of the four people hospitalized with COVID-19 is in intensive care, as McLean County health officials reported 11 new cases Saturday.

Experts Field Lingering COVID-19 Questions From ISU Faculty, Staff As New Semester Arrives

By [Darnysha Mitchell](#) • Aug 14, 2020



Illinois State University faculty and staff asked public health experts their lingering COVID-19 questions during a live webinar Friday on the eve of the fall semester.

[Pritzker Touts Business Recovery Grants In Bloomington Visit](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 13, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

More than two dozen McLean County businesses and non-profits are getting some pandemic relief from the state.

Pritzker: All Regions Of The State 'Going The Wrong Direction'

By Peter Hancock / Capitol News Illinois • Aug 13, 2020



Capitol News Illinois

Illinois has now recorded more than 200,000 cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic first arrived in the state.

COVID Testing At IWU Reveals 4 Positives; Lower Positivity Rate Than County

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 13, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Four Illinois Wesleyan University students tested positive for the coronavirus when they returned to campus for the start of the school year.

2 More Hospitalized As Testing Positivity Rate Inches Up

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 13, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Twenty new cases of the coronavirus were reported Thursday in McLean County, as the testing positivity rate ticked up slightly.

County Clerk 'Insulted' After Complaint About Staff, Masks

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 13, 2020



Ralph Weisheit / WGLT

McLean County's clerk says she is insulted by a complaint relayed by Bloomington's city manager that some of her staff at the Government Center are not wearing their masks.

State, Local Rental Assistance Still Available For McLean County Tenants

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Michele Steinbacher](#) • Aug 13, 2020



David Zalubowski / AP

McLean County tenants who are struggling because of the pandemic have another place to turn for help paying their rent.

District 87 Wants COVID Down To 'Near Nothing' Before Schools Reopen

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 12, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

District 87 Superintendent Barry Reilly told school board members Wednesday night he wants to see substantial progress in the region's COVID-19 response and caseload before he would consider reopening schools for in-class instruction.

ISU Board OKs Up To \$3.3 Million For COVID Testing; RA Dismissals Contested

By [Michele Steinbacher](#) • Aug 12, 2020



Illinois State University administrators received authorization to spend up to \$3.3 million this semester for COVID-19 testing of asymptomatic students, with the ISU board of trustees approving the plan Wednesday during a virtual meeting.

Airport Traffic Improvement Amid Uncertainty

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 12, 2020



Staff / WGLT

It's hard for airlines to plan what flights to keep or drop right now.

[Recoveries Exceed New COVID-19 Cases in McLean County](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 12, 2020



Reditus

McLean County health officials announced 14 new coronavirus cases and one hospitalization on Wednesday, while the number of active cases dropped.

ISU Reports COVID-19 Case Tied To Residence Hall

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 11, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

An Illinois State University student in a residence hall has tested positive for COVID-19, a university spokesperson said Tuesday.

McLean County Sees 11 New Cases; Active Cases Drop

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 11, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

McLean County saw its number of active COVID-19 cases drop for the third consecutive day as the rate of recovery has exceeded the number of new cases.

Money And Demand Runs Dry For Hotel Quarantine Services

By [Dana Vollmer](#) • Aug 11, 2020



Mack Male / Flickr CC-by 2.0

Money—and in some cases, demand—is running out to give people experiencing homelessness a place to quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Businesses Seek Guidance On Pritzker's Emergency Mask Order](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 10, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Businesses that violate Gov. JB Pritzker's [new mask order](#) could face more than just fines for not complying during the coronavirus pandemic. They could lose customers.

[Child Care Options Emerge For B-N Families During Virtual School](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 10, 2020



Ashley Binkowski / WGLT

The Bloomington-Normal YMCA and YWCA of McLean County are two of the organizations that have developed plans to offer child care for families when schools [resume virtual learning later this month.](#)

ISU Random Coronavirus Testing To Cost Up To \$3.3 Million

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 10, 2020



WGLT

The Illinois State University administration has asked the board of trustees to approve spending up to \$3.3 million for coronavirus surveillance testing of students on campus through the end of the year.

McLean County Sees Drop In Active COVID Cases; No Hospitalizations

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 10, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County saw a drop in active COVID-19 cases on Monday as the county added six new cases, and 22 more patients have recovered from the coronavirus.

Colleges Must Balance Privacy, Transparency With Expected New COVID Cases

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 10, 2020



Illinois State University / Facebook

College and university leaders face many tough decisions this fall about how to contain the spread of COVID-19 on their campuses. And inevitably when there are cases, those same leaders will have to decide how much information to share with their campus community, the public, and the media.

[Project Oz Expands Services To Help Youth Displaced By Coronavirus](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & Christopher Stoinev • Aug 9, 2020



The pandemic has led to increased housing insecurity among young people in McLean County, according to a Bloomington-based nonprofit that serves them.

County Seeks To Hire More Contact Tracers; 3 New Cases Reported

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 9, 2020



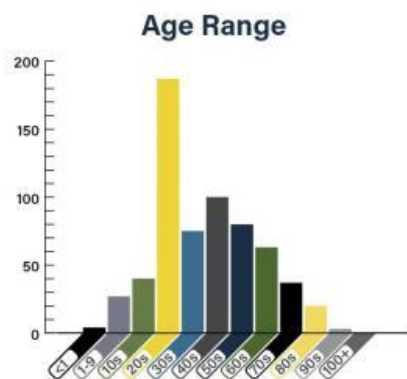
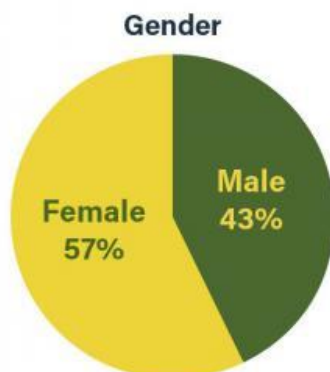
David J. Phillip / AP

Just three new cases of the coronavirus were reported Sunday in McLean County, as the testing positivity rate declined slightly.

McLean County Closer To COVID-19 Warning Level In One Measure

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 8, 2020

COVID-19 in McLean County Current as of 8-8-2020



Cases By Race/Ethnicity

White	447
Black	121
Asian	13
Other	1
Unknown	53
Am. Indian/Native Am.	1
Hispanic	77
Non-Hispanic	544
Unknown	15

The provisional 7 day rolling positivity rate is 2.1% as of 8/7/2020.

McLean County Health Department

The McLean County Health Department reported 28 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Saturday.

[ISU Lab Schools Move Online To Start School Year](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 8, 2020



Staff / WGLT

The Illinois State University Lab Schools are following Unit 5 and District 87 in telling parents and families the fall term will start with online classes.

With Remote Learning Now Set, Planning Turns To Child Care

By [Charlie Schlenker](#), [Dana Vollmer](#) & [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 7, 2020



Izzy Carroll / WGLT

Now that Bloomington-Normal's public school districts have decided to [begin the school year with remote learning](#), parents and educators have begun to scramble to arrange for child care for working parents.

McLean County Tops 600 COVID Cases; Active Cases Rise

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 7, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County saw a slight uptick in active coronavirus cases Friday as the county announced 10 new cases, while seven patients have recovered.

Pritzker Issues New Mask Orders

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 7, 2020



Carleigh Gray / WGLT

Gov. JB Pritzker has created new enforcement rules for mask wearing.

Pritzker said the statewide emergency order allows warnings and then fines of up to \$2,500 against businesses and other organizations that do not ensure that people wear masks on the premises. He said Friday during a news conference many businesses already do this, but some do not.

Attorney Helps Students Navigate Housing Options After ISU Shifts To Mostly Online

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 7, 2020



Illinois State University

An attorney representing students at Illinois State University said he expects to get plenty of questions about off-campus lease agreements from students now that the university [is moving to mostly online instruction this fall](#).

In Shift, B-N Public Schools To Start With Remote Learning This Fall

By [Charlie Schlenker](#), [Ryan Denham](#) & [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 6, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

Public schools in Bloomington-Normal will not open for in-person instruction this fall as planned.

McLean County Adds 15 New COVID-19 Cases; Testing Positivity Steady

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 6, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

Fifteen more people have tested positive for the coronavirus in McLean County, marking the third consecutive day of double-digit cases in the county.

LeRoy City Council To Consider Mask-Wearing Ordinance

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 6, 2020



Nam Y. Huh / AP

The LeRoy City Council is expected to consider a measure that would require people to wear masks when in public, or potentially face a fine.

Best Things Of The Worst Summer: Buying A House AND Having A Baby

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 6, 2020



April Anderson-Zorn

Let's admit it: Summer 2020 has been awful. (Thanks, COVID-19.) But some in Bloomington-Normal have managed to find bright spots in an otherwise dark summer. These are WGLT's Best Things Of The Worst Summer.

Want to be featured in our series? [Share your story!](#)

April Anderson-Zorn is an archivist, so she knows a thing or two about what makes a moment, a person, or a thing memorable. And this summer will certainly be memorable.

Social Stigma Is Added Symptom As COVID Spreads Among 20-Somethings

By [Ryan Denham](#), [Tim Shelley](#) & [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 6, 2020



Mary O'Brien

For Mary O'Brien, the physical symptoms of COVID-19—that persistent headache, congestion, extreme fatigue—were nothing compared to the emotional and social price she paid.

HHS: Testing Supplies Redirected From ISU For Nursing Home Initiative

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Dana Vollmer](#) • Aug 5, 2020



Erin Scott/Pool / AP

Illinois State University lost the federal testing equipment it was expecting because of a Trump administration initiative to bolster testing at nursing homes, officials said Wednesday.

McLean County Adds 13 COVID-19 Cases; Testing Positivity Rate Holds Steady

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 5, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County health officials announced 13 new coronavirus cases on Wednesday as the number of active cases dropped slightly.

Reditus Boosts Staffing, Capacity To Meet Increased COVID Testing Demand

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 5, 2020



Reditus

The Pekin company that manages COVID-19 testing in Bloomington, Peoria and five other locations in Illinois has seen a sharp increase in demand, but the head of the company said it has taken steps to manage that demand.

ISU To Shift Mostly Online This Fall After Feds Redirect Testing Supplies

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 4, 2020



Illinois State University

Illinois State University on Tuesday pointed to the unexpected loss of on-campus testing capacity and rising cases as major reasons why classes will be primarily online this fall.

McLean County Adds 18 Cases; Testing Positivity Rate Ticks Up

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 4, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County has witnessed another resurgence in COVID-19 with 18 new cases reported on Tuesday, though the county's coronavirus hospitalizations remain at two.

[OSF Pediatrician Shares Tips For Getting Mask-Wearing Buy-In From Your Kids](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 3, 2020



OSF HealthCare

Parenting during the pandemic isn't easy. But here's a sliver of good news: You've got about the perfect amount of time left to get your kiddos comfortable with wearing a mask before they go to school.

[4 More COVID Cases Turn Up At McLean County Jail](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 3, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

UPDATED 8:45 p.m. | Two more inmates and two employees have now tested positive for COVID-19 at the McLean County jail, Sheriff Jon Sandage said Monday.

McLean County Adds 7 COVID-19 Cases; Positivity Rate Holds Steady

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 3, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

McLean County health officials announced seven new COVID-19 cases on Monday as the number of active cases dipped from a record high.

Community College Board Leader Sees Students Delaying Decisions Amid Coronavirus

By Andie Bernhardt • Aug 3, 2020



Heartland Community College

Despite an [increase in summer enrollment](#), Heartland Community College in Normal anticipates low numbers for the fall semester.

MCHD Urges Diligence On Isolation As 4 More Cases Reported

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 2, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Four more coronavirus cases were reported Sunday in McLean County, as the testing positivity rate dipped slightly, public health officials said.

County's Testing Positivity Rate Ticks Up As Record 28 New Cases Reported

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 1, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County health officials cautioned against travel and large gatherings again Saturday as 28 new coronavirus cases were reported—the most ever for a single day.

Unit 5 Cancels COVID-Delayed Graduations Due To Weather

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 1, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

Unit 5 canceled Saturday's long-delayed high school graduation ceremonies at the Corn Crib, citing inclement weather.

Illinois Wesleyan To House Some Students In Hotels To Prevent COVID Outbreak

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 1, 2020



Illinois Wesleyan University

Illinois Wesleyan University plans to house up to 140 students in hotels this fall to reduce the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak on campus.

McLean County At 'Critical Point' In COVID Response As Region Sees Negative Trends

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 31, 2020



Sakchai Lalit / AP

McLean County health officials announced nine new coronavirus cases on Friday as the county closes out a month in which its COVID-19 caseload nearly doubled.

McLean County Tops 500 With 18 New Coronavirus Cases

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 30, 2020



Nam Y. Huh / AP

McLean County health officials announced 18 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday even as the county's testing positivity rate drops amid record testing.

Summer Travelers Can Bring Back COVID To Central Illinois, But No Quarantine Required

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Daniel Musisi](#) • Jul 29, 2020



Lynne Sladky / AP

Thousands of people are traveling this summer to COVID-19 hotspots and coming back to the Bloomington-Normal and the Tri-County areas — and none of them are being told to quarantine when they return.

McLean County Jail Inmate Tests Positive For COVID-19

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 29, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

All inmates and staff at the McLean County jail will be tested for COVID-19 after an inmate who has been awaiting transfer to a state prison recently tested positive, officials said Wednesday.

McLean County Adds 14 COVID Cases; Positivity Rate Dips Below 2%

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 29, 2020



Ashley Binkowski / WGLT

McLean County health officials announced 14 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday.

COVID Fears Prompt Bloomington-Normal Restaurants To Temporarily Close For Cleaning

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 28, 2020



Ashley Binkowski / WGLT

Several Bloomington-Normal restaurants are temporarily closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

McLean County Adds 11 COVID Cases; Positivity Rate Dips

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 28, 2020



Reditus

McLean County health officials announced 11 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday even as the county's seven-day [testing positivity rate dipped slightly to 2%](#).

The Struggle Is Real For B-N Parents Deciding Between In-Person Or Remote School

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 28, 2020



J. Scott Applewhite / AP

Bloomington-Normal parents say they're feeling anxious, guilty, and very uncertain as they begin to make decisions about whether to send their kids back to school or keep them home this fall.

McLean County Adds 3 COVID Cases; Young Adults Lead In Cases

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 27, 2020



Staff / WGLT

The number of active COVID-19 cases dipped for the second straight day in McLean County as the recent surge in new cases has at least temporarily subsided.

Sports On Hold At IWU As CCIW Suspends Fall Competition

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 27, 2020

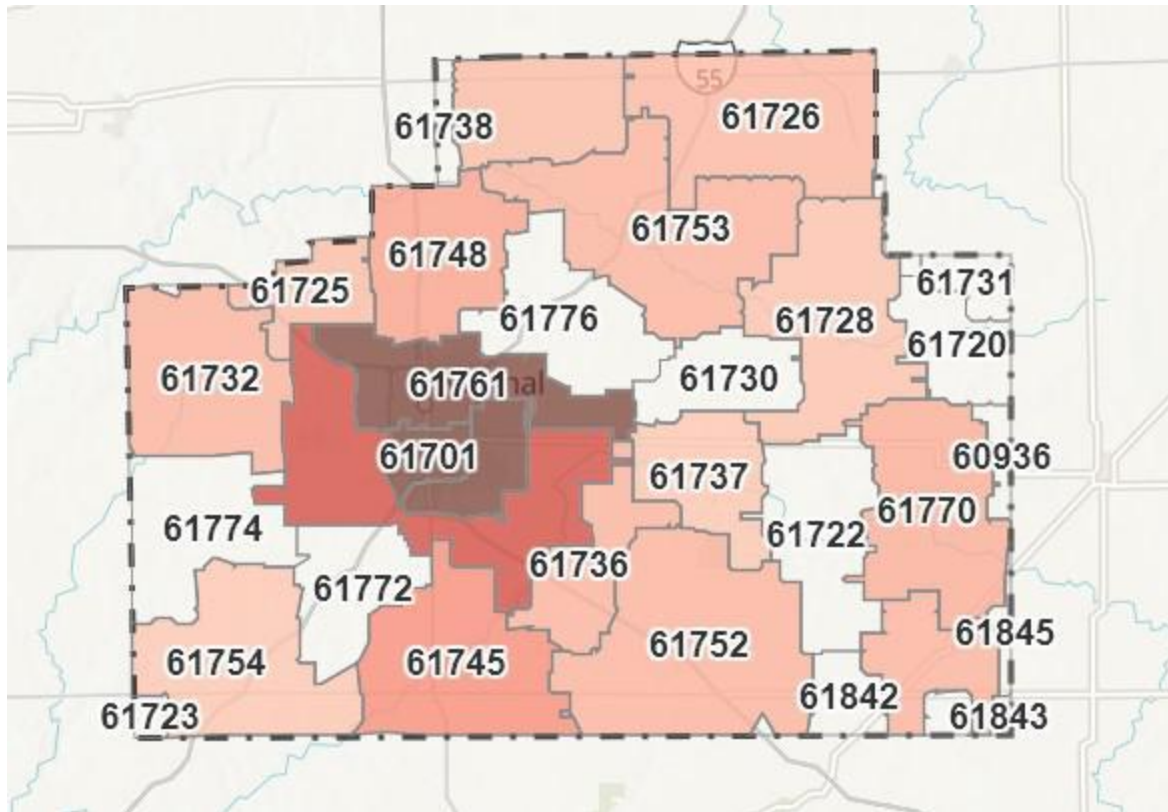


Eric Stock / WGLT

Illinois Wesleyan University has learned its fall sports season will be suspended because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Five McLean County COVID-19 Cases Reported Sunday

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 26, 2020



McLean County Health Department

The McLean County Health Department reported five new cases of COVID-19 Sunday. That brought the total in the county during the pandemic to 458 cases.

[Cautionary Closure At Destihl As Community COVID Hits Weekly Record](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 25, 2020



Destihl Brewery

McLean County's largest commercial brewery has temporarily closed associated restaurants because one of its employees has tested positive for the coronavirus.

McLean County Adds 14 New COVID Cases; 1 Person In ICU

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 24, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

McLean County continued its accelerated rate of new COVID-19 cases on Friday, announcing that 14 more people have contracted the coronavirus.

[Testing Turns Up 3 More COVID-19 Cases Among ISU Student-Athletes](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 23, 2020



Illinois State University

Four Illinois State University student-athletes have now tested positive for the coronavirus, ISU Athletics reported Wednesday.

[How A Big Nursing Home Company Got \\$20 Million From A Loan Program For Small Businesses](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 23, 2020



Ryan Denham / WGLT

The owner of a Bloomington nursing home where 11 people died after contracting COVID-19 has accepted \$20 million in loans through the Paycheck Protection Program—about 200 times the average amount for a program designed to help much smaller businesses.

Travel, Family Exposures Cause COVID-19 Spike; 18 New Cases

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 23, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County health officials announced 18 new coronavirus cases on Thursday, the second highest single-day total since the start of the pandemic.

Unit 5 School Board OKs Reopening Plan, With Room For Adjustments

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Jul 23, 2020



Breanna Grow / WGLT

Following a unanimous decision from Unit 5's school board Wednesday night, the plan is for schools to reopen for in-person learning this fall, with the option for students to learn from home.

10 Normal Firefighters Return To Work; 5 Others Still Recovering From COVID-19

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 22, 2020



Carleigh Gray / WGLT

Ten Town of Normal firefighters have returned to work following two weeks under quarantine, while five others [remain sidelined as they recover from COVID-19.](#)

COVID-19 Makes Business Startups More 'Scary'

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 22, 2020



Tiffany Bode Photography

The COVID-19 pandemic has put tens of millions of people out of work and dramatically changed the American way of life. It's not an easy time to open a business.

'Unanswered Questions' Linger For Teachers As School Reopening Plans Emerge

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 22, 2020



Charlie Neibergall / AP

The union that represents Unit 5 teachers is calling on the district to revise its [just-released pandemic reopening plan](#) to address "hundreds of unanswered questions" and then "move forward in a way that reduces risk and keeps students and staff safe."

McLean County Adds 9 New COVID Cases; Testing Site Sets Record

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 22, 2020



Reditus

McLean County health officials announced nine new coronavirus cases on Wednesday, while the positivity rate continues to steady after an early July surge.

McLean County Scraps Plans To Resume In-Person Meetings

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 21, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

McLean County Board Chairman John McIntyre has delayed plans to have government committees resume meeting in person through the end of the current term in November.

Mayor of Normal Calls For Public Discipline During Pandemic

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 21, 2020



WGLT file photo

It's hard right now. Central Illinois residents have removed themselves from many of their friends and familiar activities to prevent the spread of the virus. Yet [cases are climbing again in McLean County](#) as central Illinois moved from phase 3 to phase 4 of the state's Restore Illinois reopening plan.

COVID-19 Comes Back Strong In McLean County; 17 New Cases

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 21, 2020



Staff / WGLT

McLean County health officials announced 17 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, giving the county its highest seven-day total of 69 coronavirus cases since the start of the pandemic.

[Unit 5 Reopening Plan Would Bring Older Students To School Only 2 Days Per Week](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Dana Vollmer](#) • Jul 20, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Unit 5 families will have about a week to decide whether to send their kids to school or learn from home this fall, under the district's COVID-19 [reopening plan released Monday](#).

District 87 Offers Complete Virtual Option In 'Fluid' Reopening Plan

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 20, 2020



Eric Stock / WGLT

District 87 Superintendent Barry Reilly said he understands the hesitation teachers have about returning to the classroom next month in the midst of a pandemic.

ISU All-Faculty Meeting Postponed Over Open Meetings Act

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 20, 2020



Illinois State University

Illinois State University professors have deferred round two of an all-faculty meeting [continued from last week](#). The meeting would have been Monday evening, and included consideration of nearly two dozen resolutions left over from the lengthy proceeding last Thursday.

McLean County Adds 3 COVID-19 Cases After Record Surge

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 20, 2020



Reditus

The recent surge in coronavirus cases in McLean County took at least a brief break on Monday with three new COVID-19 cases reported.

[Back 2 School Alliance Cancels 'Party' Due To Pandemic; Needs More Backpacks](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 20, 2020



Jan Meadows

An annual back-to-school party for thousands of children in Bloomington-Normal won't happen this year.

At least not in the same way.

McLean County Ties Weekly Record For Most New COVID-19 Cases

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 19, 2020



Nam Y. Huh / AP

McLean County has added 67 new coronavirus patients in the past week—tying the weekly record—as public health officials reiterated their plea to wear face masks and limit sustained contact with those outside your home.

COVID-19's Community Spread Hits New High In McLean County

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 18, 2020



Staff / WGLT

Public health officials urged caution and vigilance Saturday—including among young, healthy people—as the coronavirus spread across McLean County more than ever before.

Holiday Parties, Travel Cause COVID-19 Spike In McLean County

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 17, 2020

McLean County health officials announced 14 new coronavirus cases on Friday.

Surveys, Mask Compliance Shape Schools Return Plans

By [Eric Stock](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 17, 2020

to get a better idea of how to plan for the upcoming school year, knowing the pandemic could easily change those plans.

ISU Faculty Look For More Course Control As Reopening Nears

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 16, 2020

Illinois State University faculty took the first steps Thursday toward asserting the power to make their own decisions individually about whether they feel safe teaching face-to-face this fall.

13 New COVID Cases In McLean County; Hospitalizations Drop

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 16, 2020

McLean County health officials announced another surge in coronavirus cases on Thursday as testing remains in high demand.

The McLean County Health Department reported 13 more cases of COVID-19 to bring the county's total of confirmed cases to 350. Nearly a quarter of those cases have been recorded since July 5.

However, the number of people requiring hospitalization dropped to three; 53 remain in quarantine.

The county has reported 15 COVID-19 deaths since the start of the pandemic; 279 patients have recovered.

In Rural Olympia District, Bus Limits Will Lead To Shorter School Days

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 16, 2020

The Olympia School District in rural McLean County plans to bring students back to school every day this fall—albeit for shorter days caused by limits on bus capacity.

Normal FD Gets 5th COVID-19 Positive; County Adds 4 Cases

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 15, 2020

A fifth Normal firefighter has tested positive for COVID-19 as McLean County health officials announced four new coronavirus cases on Wednesday.

B-N Hotels Hope For Quick Recovery In 2021 Amid Coronavirus

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 15, 2020

Bloomington-Normal hotels have rolled out expanded cleaning programs in response to the coronavirus, even as they expect fewer guests through the rest of this year.

McLean County Sees 12 More COVID Cases; 2 More In Hospital

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 14, 2020

McLean County health officials announced 12 new coronavirus cases on Tuesday, the largest single-day number since mid-May at the height of the outbreak [at the Bloomington Rehabilitation and Health Care Center](#).

Heartland Shifts Several Fall Sports To Spring Due To COVID-19

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 14, 2020

Heartland Community College will have to wait longer for its first volleyball season to begin.

New Practice Restrictions Cast Doubt Over Return Of High School Sports

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 14, 2020

Illinois high schools have sharply scaled back practices in response to new health data as their sports seasons remain in jeopardy during the pandemic.

McLean County Adds 6 COVID-19 Cases; Testing Positivity Rate Dips

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 13, 2020

McLean County health officials announced six new COVID-19 cases on Monday, while the testing positivity rate dropped slightly.

McLean County Adds 1 COVID-19 Case; Testing Positivity Rate Dips

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 12, 2020

The rate of COVID-19 infection eased a bit Sunday with McLean County health officials announcing one new case [following a recent surge](#).

15 Normal Firefighters In Quarantine Amid COVID-19 Outbreak

By [Eric Stock](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 11, 2020

Four Town of Normal firefighters have tested positive for the coronavirus and nearly a dozen co-workers also may have been exposed.

McLean County Sees 15% Rise In COVID-19 Cases In One Week

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 10, 2020

About 40 people have tested positive for the coronavirus in McLean County since the Fourth of July, a 15% jump in cases in just the past week.

McLean County Board Of Health Approves Rural Testing Program

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 9, 2020

Arrowsmith, LeRoy, Bellflower, Heyworth, and even Ellsworth might see convenient COVID-19 testing soon after the McLean County Board of Health's approval of a program to offer rural testing of the virus.

Health Department Administrator Jessica McKnight said this won't necessarily be a good gauge of how much coronavirus is present in the rural areas around Bloomington-Normal, but it will help overall data reliability.

ISU Fall Semester Plans Are Definitely Maybe

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 9, 2020

Illinois State University is confirming a lot of plans for a pandemic-related fall class schedule. But in a news conference on Thursday, university President Larry Dietz said things are still pretty fluid.

McLean County Adds 15th COVID-19 Death, 9 New Cases

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 9, 2020

McLean County health officials announced nine new coronavirus cases on Thursday and the death of a woman who died after being released following her time in isolation.

Normal Mayor Pushes Back On Appointment Opposition

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 7, 2020

Normal Mayor Chris Koos offered a rebuttal to council member Stan Nord's view of council involvement in appointments to boards and commissions during a WGLT interview Tuesday.

Federal Rules Complicate International Student Attendance At ISU

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 7, 2020

Illinois State University said Tuesday it is still assessing the impact of [new rules issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#) that could prevent some international students from attending the school.

Labor Day Parade Canceled

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 7, 2020

The pandemic has caused the cancellation of another of the big annual Bloomington-Normal event.

B-N Restaurants Were Biggest Recipient Of Federal Coronavirus Loans

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 7, 2020

Bloomington-Normal businesses and other organizations were approved to borrow at least \$130 million through the federal Paycheck Protection Program, with the most money going to restaurants and doctor's and lawyer's offices, according to a WGLT review of the loan data.

McLean County Sees First COVID-19 Death Since May

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 7, 2020

UPDATED 3:25 p.m. | McLean County health officials reported Tuesday the county's first COVID-19 death since May, while the county's active coronavirus caseload gradually increases.

Delayed Results Cause Concern As COVID-19 Testing Site Sees Record Demand

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 7, 2020

UPDATED 9:25 a.m. | A record 405 people were tested Monday at Bloomington's drive-thru testing site, as McLean County officials expressed concerns about delayed results.

7 New Cases Reported In McLean County; Testing Site Sets New Weekly Record

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 6, 2020

[Seven new cases of the coronavirus were reported Monday](#) in McLean County, continuing an uptick in cases that began just before the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Model Simulates How Quickly COVID-19 Can Spread On A College Campus

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 6, 2020

A new model is cautiously optimistic about a university's ability to control the spread of COVID-19 this fall—but that hinges largely on how much students socialize off-campus.

At Least 7 New Cases Of COVID-19 Reported Over Holiday Weekend

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 5, 2020

There were at least seven — and possibly as many as 12 — new cases of the coronavirus reported over the holiday weekend in McLean County.

4 New Cases Of COVID-19 Reported In McLean County

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 2, 2020

There were four new cases of the coronavirus reported Thursday in McLean County.

ISU To Offer More Flexibility On Telework, Instruction To De-Densify Campus At Reopening

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 2, 2020

Illinois State University's administration will release a new round of reopening guidance next week related to work-from-home and instruction that could help to de-densify campus when students return in August, a spokesperson said Thursday.

Datebook: Sugar Creek Arts Festival Stays Sweet On The Arts

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jul 2, 2020

The 2020 Sugar Creek Arts Festival requires no sunscreen, fan or sunglasses.

One New Case Of COVID-19 In McLean County; Testing Site Sets New Record

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 1, 2020

One new case of the coronavirus was reported Wednesday in McLean County.