

# Urgent News Release #3

## Richland County Health & Human Services

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## **RICHLAND COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM REDUCING SERVICES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

*Richland Center, WI:* Under the advisement of Public Health Manager/Local Health Officer Rose Kohout and due to the increasing cases of COVID-19 in the state of Wisconsin, the Aging & Disability Resource Center's Richland County Transportation Program will be scaling back their transportation services beginning Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The following services will continue to be offered:

1. Transportation to dialysis appointments for the individuals that we have been transporting will continue. This could change depending upon the COVID-19 situation in our county or other counties that we are transporting to. We request that these dialysis patients begin looking into natural supports that may be able to provide these rides through the current Public Health emergency.
2. Transportation to medical appointments will only be provided if it is an appointment that the physician states cannot wait and if we have an available driver to transport. The decision to offer transportation to medical appointments will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

3. The bus routes will continue with limited service for grocery shopping only and there will be limited seating available. The bus will be used for individuals who do not have access to natural supports that may be able to provide the ride. We are requesting that individuals purchase at least 2 weeks of supplies and reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The safety of our drivers, staff, and passengers is our first priority. The Richland County Transportation Program will be contacting all passengers and drivers the day prior to any scheduled trip to evaluate if the trip is needed and if there is any potential risk of exposure. Non-emergent appointments are being canceled and rescheduled for after April 7, 2020 at this time. We are hopeful that these rescheduled appointments will occur; however, all Transportation Program services could change at any time and are dependent upon the spread of the virus. If an individual has a medical appointment that is emergent, please contact the ADRC at (608) 647-4616 and we will determine if the trip can be provided. Individuals can also call the ADRC at (608) 647-4616 to inquire about securing a bus reservation.

Please visit the Richland County website at [www.co.richland.wi.us](http://www.co.richland.wi.us) for more information regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19).

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