

# Urgent News Release #22

## Richland County Emergency Management

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For immediate release: **April 6, 2020**

## **RICHLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERS RESPOND TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

*Richland Center, WI:* We have begun our fourth week of virtual Emergency Operations Center meetings intended to share information between Richland County officials and community partners in a joint response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Congressman Ron Kind's Congressional Aide, Tim Hundt attended the virtual briefing again today and extended his support to the Richland County community. Mr. Hundt can be reached at [tim.hundt@mail.house.gov](mailto:tim.hundt@mail.house.gov) or (202) 593-1134.

Public Health Manager/Local Health Officer Rose Kohout announced that as of 2:00pm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) confirmed that in the state of Wisconsin there were 2,267 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 25,169 have tested negative, there were 68 deaths, and 624 hospitalizations due to COVID-19. Of those that tested positive for COVID-19 in the state of Wisconsin, 28% have been hospitalized. Kohout noted that the rate of hospitalizations in Wisconsin has increased steadily every day. There are 3 confirmed case of COVID-19 in Richland County and 137 have tested negative at this time.

The Richland Hospital Coronavirus Hotline remains available 24 hours/day and patients should call (608) 604-9953 BEFORE coming to the hospital. The Richland Hospital continues to offer COVID-19 testing out of their “Respiratory Illness Evaluation” drive-thru service every day from 8am-5pm for Tier 1 and Tier 2 priorities only. Additional information about the online or telemedicine services being offered can be found at <https://www.richlandhospital.com/online-services/>.

Richland County Health & Human Services Director Tracy Thorsen stated that, even though the office is closed to the public, citizens may still call 608-647-8821 to ask questions or request services Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm. New clients are being accepted, so if you are in need of mental health services, please feel free to contact us.

Richland County Administrator Clinton Langreck reported that at this time most Richland County offices continue to be closed to the public, and if possible, staff are working from home while continuing to conduct business via phone, mail, and email when possible. Additional instructions on accessing county services and informational updates can be found on the Richland County COVID-19 website <https://covid.co.richland.wi.us>.

All other community partners continue to work in groups of 10 or less people and practice social distancing of six feet between people. For the most up-to-date COVID-19 information, follow Richland County Health & Human Services on Facebook or consult the following websites:

- ❖ Richland County:  
<https://covid.co.richland.wi.us>
- ❖ The Greater Richland Area Chamber of Commerce  
[www.gorcchamber.com](http://www.gorcchamber.com)
- ❖ Wisconsin Department of Health Services:  
[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19)
- ❖ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:  
[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/)

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