

# Urgent News Release #31

## Richland County Emergency Management

**Darin Gudgeon, Director**

**(608) 647-8187**

**[darin.gudgeon@co.richland.wi.us](mailto:darin.gudgeon@co.richland.wi.us)**

**Rose Kohout, Health Officer**

**(608) 649-5965**

**[rose.kohout@co.richland.wi.us](mailto:rose.kohout@co.richland.wi.us)**

For immediate release: **April 14, 2020**

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

*Richland Center, WI:* A virtual Emergency Operations Center meeting was held again this morning to share information between Richland County officials and community partners in a joint response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public Health Manager/Local Health Officer, Rose Kohout announced that as of 2:00pm Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) confirmed that in the state of Wisconsin there were 3,428 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 36,769 have tested negative, there were 154 deaths, and 993 hospitalizations due to COVID-19. Of those that tested positive for COVID-19 in the state of Wisconsin, 29% have been hospitalized. There are 6 confirmed case of COVID-19 in Richland County and 156 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, even on weekends and holidays, for Tier 1 and

Tier 2 priorities only. Patients needing hands-on medical care should always call the hospital main number (608) 647-6321 before coming to the hospital. Additional information about the online or telemedicine services being offered can be found at <https://www.richlandhospital.com/online-services/>.

Richland Hospital Administrator, Bruce Roesler announced that ALL staff at the Richland Hospital began wearing cloth masks routinely when working in the hospital and conducting business unrelated to direct patient care. Richland Center Police Chief, Billy Jones reported that his officers also began wearing a mask when interacting with the public.

Richland County Community Partners shared the status of their individual organization's emergency response, reviewed staffing and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) needs and local inventory, continued efforts to assist small business owners, and discussed priority topics to support the community through the recovery process.

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/)

-End-