

# Urgent News Release #36

## Richland County Emergency Management

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## **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. It was noted that Governor Evers extended the Safer At Home Order until May 26, 2020.

Public Health Manager/Local Health Officer, Rose Kohout announced that as of 2:00pm Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) confirmed that in the state of Wisconsin there were 3,875 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 40,974 have tested negative, there were 197 deaths, and 1,121 hospitalizations due to COVID-19. Of those that tested positive for COVID-19 in the state of Wisconsin, 29% have been hospitalized. There are 8 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Richland County, 165 have tested negative, and there has been 1 death as a result of COVID-19 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 County Economic Development Director, Jasen Glasbrenner announced that a “Town Hall Conference Call” has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:30pm with Congressman Ron Kind’s Office. Richland County small business owners, farmers and local banks are encouraged to attend this roundtable discussion via teleconference. To register for the call, please email Marty Richards at [marty.richards@richlandcenter.com](mailto:marty.richards@richlandcenter.com).

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, considered disinfection options utilizing UV lights, continued efforts to assist small business owners, and discussed priority topics to support the community through the recovery process. It was noted that a workgroup to identify the Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Richland County families is being held later today.

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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