

Urgent News Release #49

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.

Public Health Manager/Local Health Officer, Rose Kohout announced that as of 2:00pm Sunday, May 3rd the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) confirmed that in the state of Wisconsin there were 7,964 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 77,997 have tested negative, there were 339 deaths, and 1,608 hospitalizations due to COVID-19. Of those that tested positive for COVID-19 in the state of Wisconsin, 20% have been hospitalized. There are now 13 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Richland County, 279 have tested negative, and there have been 2 deaths as a result of COVID-19 at this time. Kohout also reported that 4 individuals who had tested positive for COVID-19 in Richland County have been released from quarantine.

The Richland Hospital Coronavirus Hotline remains available 24 hours a day 7 days a week and patients are still being instructed to call (608) 604-9953 BEFORE coming to

the hospital. The Richland Hospital continues to offer their “Respiratory Illness Evaluation” drive-thru service from **8am-Noon** 7 days a week and COVID-19 testing is being offered to anyone displaying symptoms. Richland Hospital Emergency Management Coordinator, Lyle Kratochwill noted that the hospital plans to offer non-emergent surgical procedures starting today and preparations continue for reopening their facilities sometime in May.

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, and discussed priority topics to support the community through the recovery process. The Whole Community Recovery Steering Committee has been meeting regularly to identify the economic impact of COVID-19 on Richland County families and determine a suitable long-term recovery structure for our citizens. Additional details on the Badger Bounce Back plan can be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02653a.pdf>.

If you have a COVID-19 question that you want our community partners to answer, please call Richland County Health & Human Services at 608-647-8821 and submit your question to the receptionist or email the question to rehhs@co.richland.wi.us. Citizens are encouraged to check out the Richland County COVID-19 Dashboard which offers helpful data to better understand the impact of the pandemic globally and locally: <https://covid.co.richland.wi.us/2020/04/21/richland-county-covid-19-dashboard/>. 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
- ❖ Wisconsin Department of Health Services:
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19
- ❖ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/

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