

## **Urgent News Release #52**

### **Richland County Emergency Management**

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For immediate release: **May 7, 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. Emergency Management Director, Darin Gudgeon reported that the consensus of the group was to scale back the daily virtual EOC meetings at this time, but hold the meetings frequently enough to maintain a situational awareness. Starting Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> the virtual EOC meetings will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 9am. The Whole Community Recovery Steering Committee will hold meetings and conduct business related to the local recovery effort on Fridays. It was noted that this new schedule would be monitored and modified as needed.

Public Health Manager/Local Health Officer, Rose Kohout announced that as of 2:00pm Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) confirmed that in the state of Wisconsin there were 8,901 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 87,826 have tested negative, there were 362 deaths, and 1,694 hospitalizations due to COVID-19. Of those that tested positive for COVID-19 in the state of Wisconsin, 19% have been

hospitalized. There are 13 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Richland County, 307 have tested negative, and there have been 2 deaths as a result of COVID-19 at this time. Kohout also reported that 5 individuals who had tested positive for COVID-19 in Richland County have been released from quarantine.

The Richland Hospital continues to phase in the reopening of their building and services. Non-emergent surgical procedures are being performed now; working through a risk stratification plan from low to high risk patients. On May 11<sup>th</sup>, a “soft launch” of Primary Care visits will begin at the Richland Hospital campus and expand over the next 4-6 weeks. Primary Care visits will continue at the Muscoda Health Center and the Spring Green Medical Center during this time. 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.

University of Wisconsin-Platteville/Richland Campus Dean, Dr. Brandon Fetterly announced that, while the in-person Commencement for 2020 has been postponed, we will be hosting a “2020 Scholarships, Awards, and Recognition Night” on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Details about this online event and access instructions can be found at <https://campus.uwplatt.edu/node/204760>.

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 [rchhs@co.richland.wi.us](mailto:rchhs@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](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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