Urgent News Release #95

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 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, October 5th the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) confirmed that in the state of Wisconsin there were 134,359 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 1,472,577 have tested negative, there were 1,381 deaths, and 7,702 hospitalizations due to COVID-19. Of those that tested positive for COVID-19 in the state of Wisconsin, 5% have been hospitalized.

Emergency Operations partners have decided to offer more up-to-date local data on the condition of our county that might not match the numbers offered by the State today. Public Health Manager/Local Health Officer, Rose Kohout announced that as of 2:00pm Tuesday, October 6th there are now 236 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Richland County, 5,541 have tested negative, there are 127 active cases, and 105 individuals who

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had tested positive have been released from quarantine. Of those 229 individuals who tested positive, 225 individuals have been recovering at home, 10 have been hospitalized at some point, and there were 4 COVID-19 related deaths. Kohout reports that the virus is active in our community and Richland County citizens need to stay home if possible, wear a mask, wash your hands, and stay 6 feet from others to help reduce the community spread now more than ever.

FREE COVID-19 drive-thru community testing will be offered again on **Monday, October 12th from 9am-1pm at the Richland County Fairgrounds**. Individuals have to be a Richland County resident and meet specific testing criteria. Tests will be available on a FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE basis and only 120 tests are available. 120 individuals were tested at the event offered on Monday, October 5th and the results of those tests will be included in the daily Richland County totals once they are received and verified. The collaborative partners will continue to evaluate the needs of the community and may offer additional community testing events in the future.

The Richland Hospital continues to offer COVID-19 drive-thru testing from **1 pm to 4 pm Monday thru Friday** for hospital & clinic patients displaying COVID-19 symptoms or to those that have a confirmed exposure**.** All persons requesting testing will need to call the Richland Hospital and be registered BEFORE arriving at the drive-thru. The Richland Hospital Clinic campus continues to offer voluntary medical procedures and Primary Care visits, while also continuing to offer Tele-Health patient visits. Richland Hospital Clinic patients needing hands-on medical care for any COVID-19 symptoms

should call the hospital main number (608) 647-6321 or clinic main number (608) 647-6161 BEFORE coming to the facility.

Individuals who have been tested for COVID-19 **WILL** receive their results from a testing site or healthcare provider. However, Public Health continues to prioritize contacting cases and contacts at highest risk, and due to record high numbers of COVID-19 cases over the past seven days, has reached capacity. It is important that the public knows that some cases and contacts may not receive a phone call from Public Health at this time. For this reason, we ask that any newly diagnosed person with COVID-19 begin to isolate themselves immediately and go to the Richland County COVID-19 webpage at https://covid.co.richland.wi.us/if-you-are-sick-or-have-been-exposed/ in order to receive isolation guidance. Cases should also personally notify anyone they have had close contact with about their positive COVID-19 test result, direct their contacts to quarantine, and follow the directions on the website. This notification should be shared with any person in contact with the positive case while they had symptoms AND during the 48 hours before symptoms developed. *To clarify, those who are tested WILL receive their results from a testing site or healthcare provider, but our department may not call you to complete an investigation.*

Richland County Community Partners shared the status of their individual organization's emergency response, reviewed staffing levels and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) inventory, and discussed priority topics to assist with preventing the further transmission of COVID-19 in our community.

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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