

Urgent News Release #108

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 Wednesday, October 28th the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) confirmed that in the state of Wisconsin there were 210,126 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 1,795,161 have tested negative, there were 1,897 deaths, and 10,810 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. Public Health Manager/Local Health Officer, Rose Kohout announced that as of 8:00am Thursday, October 29th there are 471 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Richland County, 6,902 have tested negative, there are 138 active cases, and 323 individuals who had tested

positive have been released from quarantine. Of those 471 individuals who tested positive, 461 individuals have been recovering at home, 25 have been hospitalized at some point, and there were 10 COVID-19 related deaths.

Richland County has secured the ability to offer routine FREE COVID-19 community testing events to our citizens weekly on **MONDAYS and THURSDAYS at the Richland County Fairgrounds**. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, October 22 nd	9am-4pm	WI National Guard Event
Monday, October 26 th	9am-1pm	Richland County Event
Thursday, October 29 th	9am-4pm	WI National Guard Event
Monday, November 2 nd	9am-1pm	Richland County Event
Thursday, November 5 th	9am-4pm	WI National Guard Event
Monday, November 9 th	9am-1pm	Richland County Event
Thursday, November 12 th	9am-4pm	WI National Guard Event
Monday, November 16 th	9am-1pm	Richland County Event
Thursday, November 19 th	9am-4pm	WI National Guard Event
Monday, November 23 rd	9am-1pm	Richland County Event
Monday, November 30 th	9am-1pm	Richland County Event
Thursday, December 3 rd	9am-4pm	WI National Guard Event

Appointments are not required, but it is requested that those who wish to be tested pre-register at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>. The website allows individuals to register for testing in advance with their personal information and gives them a QR code to scan at the testing site. Individuals who utilize this option will receive an email with their test results rather than a phone call. This website and technology will continue to be utilized at all Richland County community testing events.

The Richland County Events on MONDAYS are only for Richland County residents who meet specific testing criteria. The WI National Guard Events on THURSDAYS are open to Richland County residents and those in our surrounding communities (age 5 and older)

who are experiencing one or more symptoms of COVID-19 and for asymptomatic individuals per Public Health recommendations. It was noted that Richland County is researching location options to continue these testing sites during the winter months.

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, due to record high numbers of COVID-19 cases, Public Health has reached capacity and may not call you to complete a contact tracing investigation. 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 and contact tracing notification guidance.

The Ithaca School District returned to face-to-face instruction today. In the Richland School District, the Doudna School has transitioned to virtual learning from October 28th – November 6th. All other schools in the Richland School District will continue face-to-face instruction at this time; however, staffing levels across the district continue to be closely monitored.

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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