

# Urgent News Release #111

## Richland County Emergency Management

**Darin Gudgeon, Director**

**(608) 647-8187**

**[darin.gudgeon@co.richland.wi.us](mailto:darin.gudgeon@co.richland.wi.us)**

**Rose Kohout, Health Officer**

**(608) 649-5965**

**[rose.kohout@co.richland.wi.us](mailto:rose.kohout@co.richland.wi.us)**

For immediate release: **November 3, 2020**

## **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.

Emergency Management Director, Darin Gudgeon announced that as of 2:00pm Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) confirmed that in the state of Wisconsin there were 232,296 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 1,846,618 have tested negative, there were 2,050 deaths, and 11,597 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. Emergency Management Director, Darin Gudgeon announced that as of 2:00pm Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> there are 519 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Richland County, 7,001 have tested negative, there are 185 active cases, and 323 individuals who had tested

positive have been released from quarantine. Of those 519 individuals who tested positive, 508 individuals have been recovering at home, 26 have been hospitalized at some point, and there were 11 COVID-19 related deaths.

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

Thursday, November 5 <sup>th</sup>	9am-4pm	WI National Guard Event
Monday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	9am-1pm	Richland County Event
Thursday, November 12 <sup>th</sup>	9am-4pm	WI National Guard Event
Monday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	9am-1pm	Richland County Event
Thursday, November 19 <sup>th</sup>	9am-4pm	WI National Guard Event
Monday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9am-1pm	Richland County Event
Monday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>	9am-1pm	Richland County Event
Thursday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9am-4pm	WI National Guard Event
Monday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	9am-1pm	Richland County Event
Monday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	9am-1pm	Richland County Event
Monday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>	9am-1pm	Richland County 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. Gudgeon reported that last week's two events tested a total of 252 individuals and the results of those tests will be included in the appropriate county's totals once they are received and verified. Richland County continues to research location options to offer a testing event into 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.

Richland School District Administrator, Jarred Burke announced that the Richland Center High School transitioned to virtual learning this week. It is anticipated that the Richland Center High School and Doudna Elementary School will return to face-to-face instruction on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Ithaca School District continues to offer face-to-face instruction. Staffing levels in both school districts 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](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/)

-End-