Urgent News Release #114

Richland County Emergency Management

Darin Gudgeon, Director	**Rose Kohout, Health Officer**
(608) 647-8187	**(608) 649-5965**
darin.gudgeon@co.richland.wi.us	**rose.kohout@co.richland.wi.us**

For immediate release: **November 10, 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.

Public Health Manager/Local Health Officer, Rose Kohout announced that as of 2:00pm Monday, November 9th the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) confirmed that in the state of Wisconsin there were 271,770 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 1,926,518 have tested negative, there were 2,329 deaths, and 12,939 hospitalizations due to COVID-19. Of those that tested positive for COVID-19 in the state of Wisconsin, 4% 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 Tuesday, November 10th there are 602 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Richland County, 7,214 have tested negative, there are 187 active cases, and 404 individuals who

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had tested positive have been released from quarantine. Of those 602 individuals who tested positive, 591 individuals have been recovering at home, 29 have been hospitalized at some point, and there were 11 COVID-19 related deaths.

FREE COVID-19 community testing events in Richland County have been expanded. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville Richland will begin offering FREE COVID-19 testing events on **WEDNESDAYS from 9am-6pm in the Classroom Building located on the Richland Center campus**. All participants must register for this testing event at www.DoINeedaCOVID19Test.com. Drive-thru community testing events continue to be offered weekly on **MONDAYS from 9am-1pm and THURSDAYS from 9am-4pm at the Richland County Fairgrounds.** Appointments are not required, but it is requested that those who wish to be tested pre-register at https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov. Tests will be available on a FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE basis. The expanded FREE COVID-19 Testing schedule for events offered in Richland County are as follows:

Wednesday, November 11th	9am-6pm	Classroom Building	UW-Platteville Richland Event
Thursday, November 12th	9am-4pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	WI National Guard Event
Monday, November 16th	9am-1pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event
Wednesday, November 18th	9am-6pm	Classroom Building	UW-Platteville Richland Event
Thursday, November 19th	9am-4pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	WI National Guard Event
Monday, November 23rd	9am-1pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event
Wednesday, November 25th	9am-6pm	Classroom Building	UW-Platteville Richland Event
Monday, November 30th	9am-1pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event
Wednesday, December 2nd	9am-6pm	Classroom Building	UW-Platteville Richland Event
Thursday, December 3rd	9am-4pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	WI National Guard Event
Monday, December 7th	9am-1pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event
Wednesday, December 9th	9am-6pm	Classroom Building	UW-Platteville Richland Event
Monday, December 14th	9am-1pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event
Wednesday, December 16th	9am-6pm	Classroom Building	UW-Platteville Richland Event
Monday, December 21st	9am-1pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event

This schedule is subject to change. Richland County continues to research location options to offer a drive-thru testing site into the 2021 winter months.

The Richland County Events on **MONDAYS** are only for Richland County residents who meet specific testing criteria. The UW-Platteville Richland Events on **WEDNESDAYS** are open to Richland County residents and those in our surrounding communities (age 5 and older), and do not need to meet any criteria to be tested. 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 258 individuals and the results of those tests will be included in the appropriate county's totals once they are received and verified.

The Richland Hospital continues to offer COVID-19 drive-thru testing from **11 am 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 reported that the Richland Center High School transitioned to virtual learning until January 11, 2021. The Ithaca School District announced that they will also transition to virtual learning November 17th – December 7th. Staffing levels in both school districts continue to be closely monitored and additional school board meetings will be held which could result in an early return to face-to-face instruction or an extension of virtual learning.

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
- ❖ University of Wisconsin – Platteville Richland
  https://www.uwplatt.edu/news/update-coronavirus
- ❖ 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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