Urgent News Release #128

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**

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FREE COVID-19 COMMUNITY TESTING EVENTS
IN RICHLAND COUNTY

Richland Center, WI: Richland County Emergency Management Director, Darin Gudgeon announced the number of individuals tested at the routine FREE COVID-19 community testing events held this week. On November 30th 68 individuals were tested and another 114 individuals were tested on December 3rd. University of Wisconsin-Platteville Richland Dean Brandon Fetterly announced that 92 individuals were tested at their event on December 2nd. The results of these 274 tests will be included in the appropriate county's totals once they are received and verified.

Richland County continues to offer routine FREE COVID-19 drive-thru community testing events to our citizens weekly on **MONDAYS from 9am-Noon (or until all tests are administered) 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. 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. The Richland County

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Fairgrounds is a drive-thru testing site, so everyone will remain in their vehicles at all times. Vehicles with more than one person in them are welcome to be tested. You will be asked screening questions as you enter, if you did not pre-register, and the test will consist of a nasal swab. The test will then be sent to a State approved lab and results follow-up should occur approximately 3-7 business days post event.

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville Richland will continue to offer FREE COVID-19 testing events on **WEDNESDAYS from 9am-3pm in the Classroom Building located on the Richland Center campus**. Appointments should be made online at www.DoINeedaCOVID19Test.com, and confirmations should be printed and brought to the testing site. Assistance is available for those unable to print their confirmation from home. This testing site is fully accessible, but NOT A DRIVE-THRU SITE. Those unable to walk to the site may enter the sidewalk near Melvill Hall, follow the marked path, and drive with caution. Please park in the indicated space adjacent to the Classroom Building. The UW System universities will be the first testing sites using the BinaxNOW antigen tests, *which are self-administered tests*, that provide a result in about 15 minutes. Anyone who has a positive rapid antigen test will then be administered a PCR test to confirm or deny the positive reading and those test results will be sent via email after 3-5 days. Additional information can be found at https://www.uwplatt.edu/news/update-coronavirus.

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 area residents (age 5 and older), participants do not need to be students or employees of the University, and there are no eligibility criteria for testing. 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. Symptoms of COVID-19 can be mild and include:

● Fever	● New loss of taste and/or smell
● Cough	● Nausea
● Shortness of Breath	● Vomiting
● Chills	● Abdominal Pain
● Muscle aches/pain	● Diarrhea
● Headache	● Fatigue
● Sore throat	● Runny nose

Tests will be available on a FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE basis. The FREE COVID-19 Testing schedule for events offered in Richland County are as follows:

Monday, December 7th	9am-Noon	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event
Wednesday, December 9th	9am-3pm	Classroom Building	UW-Platteville Richland Event
Thursday, December 10th	9am-4pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	WI National Guard Event
Monday, December 14th	9am-Noon	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event
Wednesday, December 16th	9am-3pm	Classroom Building	UW-Platteville Richland Event
Monday, December 21st	9am-Noon	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event

This schedule is subject to change and is likely to continue into 2021.

Richland County residents are encouraged to sign-up for NIXLE alerts by texting 53581 to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com to sign-up to receive emails. You will then receive up-to-date alerts regarding local COVID testing sites and clinics, severe weather, public safety, criminal activities, missing persons, traffic issues, and local events.

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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