

# Urgent News Release #141

## 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, January 13<sup>th</sup> the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) confirmed that in the state of Wisconsin there were 513,270 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 2,414,873 have tested negative, there were 5,248 deaths, and 22,705 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 Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> there are 1,175 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Richland County and 7,991 have tested negative. Richland County Public Health now has 69

active cases and 1,093 individuals who had tested positive have been released from quarantine. Of those 1,175 individuals who tested positive, 1,162 individuals have been recovering at home, 67 have been hospitalized at some point, and there were 13 COVID-19 related deaths. Kohout announced that “while we are aware of another COVID-19 related death in Richland County, we are awaiting confirmation from the State before making that formal announcement.”

A collaborative partnership has been established between the Richland Hospital, Richland County Health & Human Services, Richland County Emergency Management, and Center Pharmacy to develop a local plan to effectively and efficiently distribute COVID-19 vaccinations as they become available. This group continues to meet weekly to clarify the details of the local plan.

FREE COVID-19 community testing events continue in Richland County. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville Richland is offering their FINAL FREE COVID-19 testing event on **WEDNESDAY, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am-3pm in the Classroom Building located on the Richland Center campus.** All participants must register for this testing event at [www.DoINeedaCOVID19Test.com](http://www.DoINeedaCOVID19Test.com). Drive-thru community testing events are offered weekly on **MONDAYS from 9am-Noon (or until all tests are administered) and THURSDAYS from 9am-3pm 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 FREE COVID-19 testing schedule for events

offered in Richland County are as follows (this schedule is tentative and subject to change):

<b>JANUARY 2021</b>			
Monday, January 18 <sup>th</sup>	9am-Noon	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event
Wednesday, January 20 <sup>th</sup>	9am-3pm	Classroom Building	UW-Platteville Richland Event
Thursday, January 21 <sup>st</sup>	9am-3pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	WI National Guard Event
Monday, January 25 <sup>th</sup>	9am-Noon	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event
Thursday, January 28 <sup>th</sup>	9am-3pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	WI National Guard Event

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: <https://www.uwplatt.edu/news/update-coronavirus>
- ❖ 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/)

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