

Urgent News Release #152

Richland County Emergency Management

Darin Gudgeon, Director

(608) 647-8187

darin.gudgeon@co.richland.wi.us

Rose Kohout, Health Officer

(608) 649-5965

rose.kohout@co.richland.wi.us

For immediate release: **February 10, 2021**

COVID-19 DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY TESTING EVENT IN RICHLAND COUNTY CANCELED

Richland Center, WI: Richland County Emergency Management Director, Darin Gudgeon announced that the COVID-19 drive-thru testing event scheduled for Thursday, February 10th at the Richland County Fairgrounds has been canceled due to frigid temperatures. Gudgeon reports “the technique of swabbing the nose for secretions to be analyzed for the COVID-19 virus is a medical procedure, and for the health and safety of our staff and those wanting a test, the ambient temperatures need to be near 50 degrees in the area the testing is taking place. The location at the fairgrounds is heated, but because of the design of the building, it is impossible to effectively maintain an ambient temperature of 50 degrees; thus with the cold weather forecasted this week, it is just not possible to conduct a safe drive-thru testing event.” Individuals who are symptomatic and need a test, should contact the Richland Hospital Clinic at 608-647-6321 or their primary healthcare provider.

FREE COVID-19 drive-thru community testing events will continue in Richland County, but the events will not be held if the outside temperature at 9am is in the single digits or

below. These events will also follow the Wisconsin National Guard policy requiring that the ambient temperature of the testing area be maintained at a minimum of 50 degrees.

The tentative FREE COVID-19 testing schedule for events offered in Richland County are as follows:

Monday, February 15 th	9am-11am	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event
Thursday, February 18 th	10am-2pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	WI National Guard Event
Monday, February 22 nd	9am-11am	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event
Thursday, February 25 th	10am-2pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	WI National Guard Event
Monday, March 1 st	9am-11am	Richland County Fairgrounds	Richland County Event
Thursday, March 4 th	10am-2pm	Richland County Fairgrounds	WI National Guard Event

This schedule is subject to change.

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 vaccination 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>
- ❖ Wisconsin Department of Health Services:
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19
- ❖ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/

-End-