

Urgent News Release #171

Richland County Emergency Management

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RICHLAND COUNTY STRONGLY ADVISES THE CONTINUED USE OF MASKS

Richland Center, WI: Richland County Public Health continues to strongly advise that residents wear a mask while in public spaces. Individuals should wear masks or face coverings that cover their mouth and nose when around non-household members following current Wisconsin DHS and CDC guidance. In general, this means masking when around others who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or are of unknown vaccination status with few exceptions. Those who are fully vaccinated should follow [public health best practices](#) in public spaces. This includes wearing a mask and physically distancing. Fully vaccinated people should also continue these practices when visiting unvaccinated people who are at an increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease. You can find more information at DHS's [After You Get the Vaccine webpage](#).

“When the State masking order was overturned by the State Supreme Court, the legality of the order was challenged, not its wisdom or its commitment to the health of Wisconsin’s residents. Masking and social distancing remain extremely important. In fact, these measures, in combination with avoiding large gatherings and handwashing, are particularly effective in preventing the transmission of COVID-19”, said Rose Kohout,

Richland County Health Officer. “We are all tired and want this pandemic to be behind us, but now more than ever, we need to remain careful and vigilant. Richland County has done well immunizing its residents, but there are many who have not yet had the opportunity to receive a vaccine. The citizens of Richland County have done a wonderful job implementing preventive measures, especially mask wearing, and we ask that they continue until we can get a larger percentage of folks vaccinated. We are doing great and we need the assistance of each citizen in continuing to be part of an effective pandemic response. Thank you, in advance, for your efforts to safeguard the health and safety of your family, friends, and neighbors” added Kohout.

It is important to note that businesses and schools can still require masks without a State Order. For additional information visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

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/

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