

Urgent News Release #64

Richland County Health & Human ServicesTracy Thorsen, DirectorRo(608) 649-5935(6tracy.thorsen@co.richland.wi.usro

Rose Kohout, Health Officer (608) 649-5965 <u>rose.kohout@co.richland.wi.us</u>

For immediate release: January 14, 2022

RICHLAND COUNTY COVID-19 CASE NUMBERS EXCEED STAFF CAPACITY

Richland Center, WI: As the Omicron surge continues to escalate, cases of COVID-19 have now exceeded the capacity of Richland County Public Health to contact each individual who has tested positive. Public Health staff will prioritize making phone calls and, if a call cannot occur, every effort will be made to communicate information on isolation and quarantine guidelines using an alternate method. Information may be sent electronically or by US mail.

Given this increase in cases, Richland County Public Health is requesting our community's assistance. If our staff calls you, please answer or return the call. If you test positive, please begin to isolate and contact those with whom you have been in close contact so they begin to quarantine. Please reach out to your employer or your child's school to ensure that they are aware of your family's situation.

"Richland County Public Health is concerned about the health of every county resident and will continue to work hard to provide each person with information they need to assure their well-being and that of their loved ones", stated Rose Kohout, Health Officer. "Current circumstances, however, have made this process more difficult and we appreciate the assistance and understanding of each citizen as we move through this wave of the pandemic" added Kohout.

If you need to call the Public Health Office, please feel free to do so and our staff will attempt to contact you as soon as we are able. We encourage residents to visit the Centers for Disease (CDC) website for information on updated isolation and quarantine protocols using this link: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html</u>

-End-