Urgent News Release #241

Richland County Emergency Management
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FREE COVID-19 TESTING ENDS IN RICHLAND COUNTY
HHS OFFERS BIVALENT BOOSTER

Richland Center, WI: Richland County Emergency Management Director, Darin Gudgeon announced that FREE COVID-19 drive-thru community testing events WILL NOT BE REINSTATED as originally anticipated. Gudgeon reports "the community testing program now requires that test sites use rapid antigen tests, which are the same tests that individuals can take at home. With the shift in policy, we are now focusing on the distribution of at home antigen test kits to the citizens of Richland County."

Richland County Public Health Officer, Rose Kohout noted that FREE COVID-19 vaccination clinics will continue to be held at Richland County Health & Human Services, 221 W. Seminary Street, Richland Center on **WEDNESDAYS** from **1-4:30pm**. Kohout announced "we are now able to offer the single (1) dose Pfizer-BioNTech Bivalent booster product, or updated boosters, as are now being recommended by the CDC and DHS." Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome for ADULTS ONLY. Appointments are required and a parent needs to be present for children 6 months-17 years requesting vaccination. Individuals should call Health and Human Services at **608-649-5795** to schedule an appointment.

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:
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- ❖ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

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