



Douglas County Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19: Message from the Health Officer

Douglas County Public Health is reporting nine more people tested positive for COVID-19 this week, bringing the total to 69. Common factors contributing to the spread of the virus this week include travelers and people that developed the disease while in quarantine. Restricting activity during quarantine helps reduce spreading the disease before symptoms begin.

Public Health continues to monitor business practices and will report any that are identified to be a risk to the public through poor COVID prevention practices or having two or more employees who test positive within two incubation periods (28 days). As of today, all businesses impacted by COVID-19 have immediately responded by temporarily closing affected areas and implemented disinfection strategies, mitigating the risk of further spread of the virus. Public Health continues to recommend avoiding crowded indoor public places as that is a high risk activity.

As most people know, there are a couple of large events scheduled for next weekend. The county has determined businesses are allowed to operate if they do so with COVID-19 prevention practices in place. Environmental Health has worked closely with the event coordinators to assure COVID-19 prevention plans are in place. Public Health does not recommend attending large public gatherings due to the risk of COVID-19 transmission. If you choose to attend a large public event, wear a facemask, disinfect your hands frequently and maintain a six foot distance from people outside of your family unit. Finally, if you or someone who is a close contact to you is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for the disease, please stay home.

Ignoring these simple COVID-19 prevention practices could result in a surge of positive cases which could negatively impact our community. Businesses would like to remain open and schools would like students to return in the fall. This is not a time for a widespread outbreak in our community.

We can choose to protect ourselves and each other, and thereby protect our community and economy, by changing our behavior in accordance with the actions listed above.

Check the Douglas County web page for updates and alerts.

- COVID-19 Activity Level by Region and County: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>
- Douglas County COVID-19 Dashboard: <https://www.douglascountywi.org/1124/COVID-19-Updates>
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services COVID-19 : <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19>