



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2020

### Health Alert and Call to Action: Do Your Part, Stop the Spread

**WASHBURN, WISCONSIN: You have the power. Take action now. Stop the Spread.** Our staff are reaching their maximum capacity to follow up with positive cases and conduct contact tracing. Hospital bed availability is now below 15% statewide and hospitalizations are continuing to increase. With this increase, hospitals are becoming strained to deal with just regular emergencies, such as car crashes, heart attacks and strokes. Because our area relies heavily on neighboring health care facilities, we will be especially hard hit by any extra waiting time during emergencies.

We are seeing people disregard instructions from public health, even when we reach out to them individually, so we are reaching out to everyone in a last-ditch effort to help slow the spread of COVID in our communities. Bayfield County Public Health is asking all residents to work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Your help is necessary to reduce the spread and protect our families, our friends and our communities.

Within the last week our case numbers for COVID-19 have doubled and this week we have had an additional death. Given this surge, our local health department efforts to control the spread of the virus has become increasingly strained. Demand is fast approaching our capacity to effectively identify cases and conduct case investigation and contact tracing.

Here is how you can do your part to stop the spread:

- Discontinue gatherings of more than 10 people
- Limit trips to just essential
- Frequently wash hands
- Wear a face covering/mask in public and around people outside of your household.
- Practice physical distancing when outside your home.

#### Individuals who test positive, we need you to:

- Stay home and isolate for a minimum of 10 days after symptom onset or a positive test result, and you have been feeling well for at least 24 hours with no fever and without fever reducing medications. If those criteria are met, you may return to work or school on day 11.
- You should not be out in any public places.
- Notify your employer or school.
- Notify your close contacts.
- Keep all household members at home and follow close contact guidelines.

#### Individuals who are a close contact of a positive case, we need you to:

- Stay home and isolate for 14 days from your last contact with a positive case as the virus can take up to 14 days to develop into an infection.
- You should not be out in any public places
- Monitor yourself and other household members for symptoms of COVID-19.
- If you become ill contact your medical provider

**Employers, what you need to know:**

- Due to the increasing number of positive COVID cases the health department may rely on cases to contact their employer.
- Please discuss with your employee their return to work date. See guidelines for positive cases and close contacts above.

For local updates about COVID-19 and other public health news, follow the Bayfield County Health Department at <https://www.bayfieldcounty.org/COVID>

For updates on COVID-19 in WI, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.htm>.

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