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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIFTH CASE OF NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CONFIRMED IN PORTAGE COUNTY

April 28, 2020
As of 4:30 PM

Stevens Point, WI—Portage County Health and Human Services-Division of Public Health is confirming that another Portage County resident has tested positive for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). The individual is currently in isolation. County health officials are working to determine how the person may have become infected and is contacting individuals with whom the patient had close contact with.

It is more important than ever that individuals do not go into public places for anything but the essentials—such as groceries, medicine, gas, and other items needed to maintain a safe home. Shopping trips should be limited to once per week or less and should be done by only one person in the household; entire families should not be out shopping together (if practical). Individuals should also limit their time inside stores, practice social distancing (by maintaining 6 feet or more from other people), and hand wash/sanitize after shopping. Essential travel includes leaving home only to: purchase essential supplies; seek health care; purchase medical supplies or prescriptions; travel to an essential workplace; or travel to care for a child, dependent, or elderly person.

Portage County Health and Human Services-Division of Public Health strongly advises community members to follow Governor Evers' [Safer At Home order](#) and stay at home as much as possible. In addition, people should continue to practice proper hygiene to avoid getting sick, including:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Covering coughs and sneezes.
- Avoiding touching your face.
- Staying home when sick.
- Practicing social distancing
- Avoiding gatherings where more than 10 people are in attendance.

“As it has been few weeks since an additional positive case has been identified it is extremely important that we continue practicing being Safe at Home,” said Gary Garske, Health Officer, Portage County Health and Human Services-Division of Public Health. “While Emergency Order #34 will allow for an increase in minimum basic operations, social distancing and avoiding non-essential travel must still be practiced. As the weather continues to get nicer, we all need to avoid situations where congregating can

occur, and safe social distancing is not practiced. Stay well and stay safer at home, as we are all in this together,” Garske added.

Portage County Health and Human Services-Division of Public Health will continue to monitor and follow-up with individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and work with local, state, and federal partners and local healthcare providers to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Going forward, the PCHHS-Division of Public Health will no longer be providing a press release when each new positive case is identified. Case counts in Portage County will be updated on the Portage County Division of Public Health Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PortageCountyDPH/> and on the [Portage County's COVID-19 website](#) and the [Portage County Division of Public Health Updates and Alerts](#).

For additional updates and resources, residents are encouraged to monitor the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and CDC websites for the latest information and guidance.

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