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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Portage County National Guard COVID-19 Testing**

Stevens Point, WI – On Monday, May 11 and Tuesday, May 12 Portage County Health and Human Services-Division of Public Health provided free community testing with assistance from the Wisconsin National Guard. This testing was for individuals experiencing symptoms and frontline workers with or without symptoms. Portage County Division of Public Health is grateful to the Wisconsin National Guard for making this testing available and for their help in administering the tests.

Over the course of the two-day testing, 348 people were tested, and all of the results have been processed. There were two positive cases identified for individuals that reside in neighboring counties. No positive tests have been identified for individuals that reside in Portage County from this community testing event. Portage County has been successful in reducing cases of COVID-19 through the Safer-At-Home order. Although the Supreme Court overruled the Safer-at-Home order, continuing to follow the guidance from this order is proven to be important in preventing the spread of COVID-19. The order being lifted does not mean that the risk of contracting COVID-19 has decreased. The order being lifted means that the responsibility of keeping our community safe has shifted from being enforced by law to relying on businesses and Portage County residents to make the choices that will keep our community safe.

Portage County Division of Public Health encourages all community members to continue avoiding non-essential travel outside of the community especially avoiding locations with high rates of COVID-19 cases. Community members are encouraged to continue washing their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, practicing physical distancing, wearing a cloth face covering or mask in public, and staying home and calling their healthcare provider if they feel sick. People who are vulnerable and at higher risk of severe complications of COVID-19 should stay home whenever possible. This includes people who are over 65, live in nursing homes or long-term care facilities, and individuals with underlying health conditions who are immunocompromised.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider for testing options. Wisconsin Department of Health Services also has testing locations listed at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/testing>.

If you have questions or immediate needs related to COVID-19, call 2-1-1 or text COVID-19 to 211-211. For up-to-date information, please visit the Portage County Division of Public Health Website or Facebook page.

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