



RAYMOND F. PRZYBELSKI, DIRECTOR
(715) 345-5350 or Toll Free (866) 920-2525
FAX (715) 345-5966

RUTH GILFRY HUMAN RESOURCES BUILDING
817 WHITING AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481-5292

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

pcpublichealth@co.portage.wi.us

PORTAGE COUNTY MARKS 200TH CASE OF COVID-19, REMINDER OF COMMUNITY SPREAD

July 9, 2020

Stevens Point, WI—Portage County Health and Human Services-Division of Public Health (PCHHS-DPH) confirmed on June 11th that Portage County has community spread of COVID-19. On July 7, 2020, Portage County confirmed its 200th case of COVID-19 and evidence of community spread continues to be prominent across the county and statewide. The virus continues to be spread from those with symptoms and those that are asymptomatic, meaning people are not experiencing symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. While vulnerable populations including the elderly and immunocompromised are at an increased risk for serious and life-threatening complications, anyone can become infected with the virus and become seriously ill.

The safety of our community is the responsibility of all of Portage County residents. PCHHS-DPH cannot reduce the spread of COVID-19 alone and are asking residents to continue to do their part by taking precautions such as limiting travel, physical distancing of 6 feet from those not in your household, and wearing a face covering in public. PCHHS-DPH is responsible for updating the community on recommendations to decrease the spread of COVID-19, providing testing resources to the community, and providing an update on cases in our community while still protecting individual's personal health information. The community's response to the PCHHS-DPH's guidance is one of the keys to slowing the virus spread and improving the wellbeing of our community.

As of 2:00pm on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, Portage County has **40 (20%)** active COVID-19 cases and **164 (80%)** recovered cases. According to the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#), in order to be recovered from COVID-19, individuals must meet one of the following parameters: (1) Documentation of resolved symptoms; (2) Documentation of release from public health isolation; or (3) 30 days since symptom onset or diagnosis. The largest number of confirmed positive cases in Portage County are those between the ages of 20-29, or 37% of cases (as of Tuesday, July 7). **For more information, visit Portage County's COVID-19 data and information dashboard at this link: <https://coronavirus-response-portage-county-portagecowi.hub.arcgis.com/>**

Rates of positive COVID-19 cases in Portage County continues to increase. Practicing the following safety precautions continues to be the best way to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- **Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes**
- **Avoid touching your face in public**
- **Practice physical distancing of at least 6 feet from people not in your household**

- **Avoid large gatherings**
- **Avoid non-essential travel**
- **Wear a cloth face covering in situations where physical distancing can't be maintained**
- **Stay home when sick**

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever and chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Fatigue and body/muscle aches
- Diarrhea, vomiting and nausea

If you have questions, please call or email our department at (715) 345-5907 or PCPublicHealth@co.portage.wi.us.

If you have general COVID-19 questions call 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898211 Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Where Government Serves the Community