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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **July 8 Portage County COVID-19 Testing – 18 Positives Identified, 7 Portage County Residents**

Stevens Point, WI – On Wednesday, July 8 Portage County Health and Human Services-Division of Public Health provided free community testing for COVID-19 with assistance from the Wisconsin National Guard. This testing was available to all Wisconsin residents who were experiencing symptoms or if they were a close contact to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. No one was denied testing at this event. The Portage County Division of Public Health is thankful for the Wisconsin National Guard and for their partnership in making this testing available to all of Wisconsin.

Throughout the day, 447 individuals were tested, and at this time most of the tests have been processed. Of the 447 tests collected on July 8, 314 were from Portage County, 1 from Adams County, 2 from Clark County, 1 from Columbia County, 1 from Eau Claire County, 1 from Florence County, 1 from Kenosha County, 2 from Lincoln County, 26 from Marathon County, 1 from Marquette County, 1 from Oneida County, 2 from Outagamie County, 2 from out of state, 4 from Shawano County, 31 from Waupaca County, 16 from Waushara County, 1 from Winnebago County, and 40 from Wood County. To date, there have been 18 positive cases identified in total, or 4% of the tests completed on July 8. Of those 18 positive cases, 7 were from Portage County, 8 from Waupaca County, 1 from Marathon County, and 2 from Wood County.

Portage County Division of Public Health encourages all community members to continue to follow social distancing guidelines and to stay home if you are feeling sick. Officials continue to also recommend 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, wearing a face covering or mask in public, 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 COVID-19 dashboard at <https://coronavirus-response-portage-county-portagecowi.hub.arcgis.com/>.

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