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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 29, 2020

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Fifth and Sixth Portage County COVID Related Deaths Reported

Portage County Division of Public Health is confirming the fifth and sixth deaths in Portage County associated with the novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19).

“We are saddened by the loss of two more community members,” says Gary Garske, Health Officer and Division of Public Health Manager at Portage County Health and Human Services. “I, along with our public health team and the entire community, extend our sympathies to their loved ones.”

To date, 1,481 people in Portage County have been diagnosed with COVID-19, and there have been 1,300 deaths in Wisconsin.

COVID-19 can cause serious health complications and death, especially among older adults and people with chronic health conditions. That’s why it’s important that we all work together to prevent the spread of illness by practicing preventive measures, such as wearing a face covering in public, practicing social distancing, washing hands often, and keeping social circles small. It is also important to remember that COVID-19 can be spread by those who are not experiencing symptoms.

“We strongly encourage community members to follow the Executive Order #1 Masking Mandate by wearing a mask in public and keeping at least six feet apart from others when you leave your home. In doing so, you’re not only helping protect yourself, but also your family, friends, neighbors, and fellow community members,” says Garske.

We do not plan to issue press releases for future deaths that result from COVID-19 infection. For further communications regarding county-level statistics, please visit the Portage County Facebook page, homepage, or dashboard at this link: <https://bit.ly/3bmQOjD>

If you have questions or would like additional guidance, 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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