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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portage County National Guard COVID-19 Testing Recap

Stevens Point, WI – On Tuesday, September 22 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 or identified as a close contact. Portage County Division of Public Health is grateful to the Wisconsin National Guard for making this available and for their help in administering the tests.

This testing event collected 578 samples, 36 of which were identified as positive cases. Of the 36 positive cases, 26 of the cases were Portage County residents and 10 were from other jurisdictions. Two of the samples collected were not analyzed. The reported occupations of people tested are listed below:

Student: 15.6%	Service: 11.8%
Health Care Worker: 11.1%	Professional: 10.6%
Laborer: 6.7%	Retired: 5.7%
Education: 4.7%	Self Employed: 3.1%
Unemployed: 2.1%	Safety: 1.4%
Unknown: 27.3%	

Portage County is currently identified as having a very high COVID-19 case activity level, with a very high case burden of 718.3 per 100,000 (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>). As Portage County, and the entire state, continue to experience high case numbers, it is extremely important that our community works together to slow the spread. Stay home if you feel ill, maintain 6 feet from people outside of your home, wear face coverings, and wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Remember, your decisions impact not only yourself and those around you, but our entire community.

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, Facebook page, and dashboard.

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