



Douglas County Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19: Public Health Updates: Data, Exposures and Free Testing

Douglas County Public Health is reporting 14 more people tested positive for COVID-19 this week, bringing the total to 89. Of the nearly 4,000 tests completed since the pandemic began, about 2% have been positive. Five people have required hospitalization with two people now recovering at home. No deaths have been associated with COVID-19 in Douglas County.

Common factors contributing to the spread of the virus this week include travelers, people who developed the disease while quarantined, and exposure at work. One business has been identified as having two or more employees who have tested positive for COVID-19. **Centerfold's Cabaret** closed temporarily to initiate COVID prevention strategies and cleaning. Anyone who spent more than 15 minutes within six feet of anyone outside of their household while visiting this facility in the past 2 weeks should self-monitor and seek testing if they develop symptoms. Public Health continues to recommend avoiding crowded indoor public places due to the increased risk of COVID transmission.

Public Health will continue to monitor business practices and will report any that are identified to be a risk to the public through poor COVID prevention practices or having two or more employees who test positive within two incubation periods (28 days). As of today, all businesses impacted by COVID-19 have immediately responded by temporarily closing affected areas and implemented disinfection strategies, mitigating the risk of further spread of the virus.

In response to the increasing number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 as well as the two large events being held in our community this weekend, Public Health has requested the National Guard return to Douglas County to assist with community drive thru COVID-19 testing sites next week. While each event organizer developed and implemented COVID prevention plans, the risk of transmission exists in large crowds. **The free drive thru testing sites will be in Superior on Wednesday July 29th and in Solon Springs on Thursday, July 30th.** Any Wisconsin resident who has any COVID symptom or who is a close contact to a positive case is eligible for this free testing. Pre-registration will be available through an app accessible on any smart phone, or iPad/tablet, reducing the time waiting in line. More information about accessing the app will be available prior to the event. Paper registration will be available for people who do not have that technology.

We can all contribute to reducing the spread of COVID-19 by maintaining a six foot physical distance from people outside of your household, wear a face mask when coming into contact with others and disinfect your hands frequently. Spending time outdoors also lowers the risk of spreading the virus. Finally, if you are experiencing any COVID symptoms or if you have spent time with anyone who has had symptoms or is on isolation or quarantine, stay home as much as possible.

Check the Douglas County web page for COVID information, updates and alerts.

- COVID-19 Activity Level by Region and County: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>
- Douglas County COVID-19 Dashboard: <https://www.douglascountywi.org/1124/COVID-19-Updates>
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services COVID-19 : <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19>