



Douglas County Public Health

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Douglas County Public Health Announces the First Death Related to COVID-19

Douglas County Public Health today confirmed the first death of a Douglas County resident related to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The individual was in their 90's and lived in an assisted living residence in Superior. Public Health will not be releasing any further information out of respect for the deceased and their loved ones.

"Our hearts go out to the grieving families and community members affected by COVID-19," stated Kathy Ronchi, Douglas County Health Officer. "We would like to extend our deepest condolences to everyone impacted by this loss." Ronchi added.

To date, 624 individuals in Douglas County have been diagnosed with COVID-19 with about 6% of all people tested being positive. Less than 10% of all people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Douglas County are over 70 years old, but the number has been growing.

The Centers for Disease Control reports 8 out of 10 deaths reported in the US have been in adults 65 years old and older. Although people of all age groups can contract the disease, the elderly are particularly at risk due to physiological changes that come with aging and underlying health conditions.

Local Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities have been working with Douglas County Public Health and the Wisconsin Department of Health, instituting rules and regulations focused on protecting our most vulnerable residents. COVID-19 prevention strategies, including facility testing of residents and staff, are being done regularly.

Douglas County Public Health encourages people to be mindful of whom they may expose to the virus when choosing high risk activities such as attending large public gatherings. "You may recover but you may be putting others at risk." stated Ronchi. According to Wisconsin's Department of Health Services, Douglas County has very high case activity but the trend in cases is going down. "If everyone does their part, the number of people who test positive will decrease and our vulnerable people will be safer."

Public Health encourages everyone to frequently and thoroughly wash their hands, stay home when sick, practice physical distancing, avoid large gatherings, and wear a face covering/mask when around people outside of your household. "These are simple measures everyone can take to protect themselves and others. The more things we can do to lower our risk of exposure, the better off we will be." stated Kathy Ronchi, Health Officer.

Check the Douglas County web page for updates and alerts.

- COVID-19 Activity Level by Region and County: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>
- Douglas County COVID-19 Dashboard: <https://www.douglascountywi.org/1124/COVID-19-Updates>
- CDC- COVID in Elderly: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html>