

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Annette Mikula  
INITIATED BY



Annette Mikula  
DRAFTED BY

Annette Mikula  
SUBMITTED BY

May 6, 2020  
DATE DRAFTED

**Creating a Public Health Contact Tracer Job Classification, Establishing  
a Pay Range, and  
Authorizing Recruitment for Project Positions**

1 **WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services issued Emergency  
2 Order #12 "Safer at Home" to slow the spread of the Novel Coronavirus by ordering all Wisconsin  
3 Residents to stay at their current residence unless they needed to use or provide essential business and  
4 services until April 24, 2020; and  
5  
6 **WHEREAS**, on April 16, 2020, the State's Safer at Home order was extended until May 26, 2020; and  
7  
8 **WHEREAS**, Governor Tony Evers established the Badger Bounce Back Plan on April 20, 2020, as a  
9 framework to the re-opening of Wisconsin businesses, and an integral part of the plan includes an increase  
10 in testing lab capacity and an increase in contact tracing to track the spread of COVID-19; and  
11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the Badger Bounce Back plan emphasizes that testing without tracing will not result in  
13 controlling the spread of the virus and Wisconsin has identified a need to increase the number of contract  
14 tracers in the state; and  
15  
16 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Public Health Department currently conducts contact tracing and case  
17 investigation for all positive test results of residents of Rock County; and  
18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the Public Health Department has 10.0 FTE in Public Health Nurses and is using  
20 Environmental Health Specialists to provide additional support for contract tracing; and  
21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the County has been able to re-deploy some additional staff to support contact tracing; and  
23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the Public Health Department has been able to hire temporary Public Health Nurses to  
25 support contact tracing and case investigation; and  
26  
27 **WHEREAS**, these resources may not be sufficient to conduct all of the contact tracing and case  
28 investigation of COVID-19 patients in the most timely manner possible; and  
29  
30 **WHEREAS**, it is the best interest of Rock County, its residents, and its workforce to increase the number  
31 of contact tracers available; and  
32  
33 **WHEREAS**, given the uncertainty of and flexibility needed to manage the response to COVID-19, all of  
34 these positions will be considered project funded positions and do not possess any seniority rights for  
35 "bumping" purposes should their positions be eliminated in the future due to inadequate funding or  
36 program changes.  
37  
38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled  
39 this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020 creates the Public Health Contact Tracer job classification in Range 13  
40 of the Unilateral Pay Grid and authorizes the Rock County Human Resources Department to recruit for  
41 Public Health Contact Tracers project positions.

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Respectfully submitted,

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_, Vice Chair

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BOARD OF HEALTH

\_\_\_\_\_, Chair

Dr. Connie Winter, DDS

Dr. Kaitlyn Meyers, DVM, MPH

Dr. Vijaya Somaraju, MD, MPH, FACP

Debra Kolste

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Eric Gresens, RPh

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FISCAL NOTE:

These position qualify for Federal/State reimbursement. The amount of reimbursement is unknown at this time. Costs that aren't reimbursed will need to be funded by a transfer from the General Fund.

*/s/Sherry Oja*

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §59.22(2), Wis. Stats.

*/s/Richard Greenlee*

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

*/s/Josh Smith*

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

## **Executive Summary**

The COVID-19 global pandemic has infected residents and has spread within Rock County. Wisconsin has been under a Safer-at-home order since March 24, 2020 intended to slow the spread of this new virus. Safer at home has saved lives, protected health care workers and critical employees, and prevented our hospitals from being overrun, but we know this is not a long term workable solution for the economy. Wisconsin has created the Badger Bounce Back plan to re-open the state in the safest way possible.

The Badger Bounce Back Plan emphasizes three core responsibilities of testing, tracing, and tracking the spread of COVID-19. The state has ramped up testing with a goal of approximately 12,000 tests a day. However, testing without contact tracing will not result in controlling the spread of COVID-19. Wisconsin, and Rock County, need to increase contact tracing efforts to make sure that everyone is contacted and have what they need to safely isolate and quarantine.

The Rock County Public Health Department has exhausted the capacity of their current staff. While we have been able to hire some temporary limited term Public Health Nurses, the need for contract tracing still exists.

This resolution would create a new position of Public Health Contact Tracer and place it in range 13 of the Unilateral Pay Grid. The Human Resources Department will work with Public Health to recruit and hire project Public Health Contract Tracer positions.