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NEWS RELEASE

To: Local Media
From: Marie-Noel Sandoval, MPH, Health Officer
Date: March 17th, 2020

COVID-19 Daily Update

As of today, there are 72 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in the State of Wisconsin, with one case already recovered. There are zero confirmed positive cases in Rock County. Please visit <https://www.co.rock.wi.us/publichealth-familycommunity/publichealth-communicabledisease/coronavirus-disease-2019> to view the Daily Rock County COVID-19 Update.

Local State of Emergency

On Monday, March 16th, Rock County Administrator, Josh Smith, and County Board Chair, Russ Podzilni, jointly declared a local state of emergency for Rock County relating to COVID-19. This was done as a precautionary measure to facilitate obtaining resources needed to protect people from the spread of disease, while ensuring the continuity of critical Rock County operations.

Gatherings

At the direction of Governor Evers, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, gatherings of 10 people or more are prohibited in Rock County as of 5:00 p.m. today. Restaurants, bars, and other food service establishments may no longer offer in-dining seating and cease all self-service food operations. Delivery and take out service may still be available.

Due to the risk of community transmission of COVID-19 in Rock County, the Rock County Public Health Department is directing all resident to follow these measures:

- **Stay home whenever you can, especially if you are sick, and limit contact with others:** This includes canceling events, gatherings, playdates, and nonessential appointments. Minimize trips in public, avoid traveling, and work from home as much as possible. If you must go out, stay at least six feet from people whenever possible. Order supplies you need for delivery so you can stay home.

- **Use virtual visits with your doctor:** If you have symptoms like cough, fever, or other respiratory problems, call your doctor's office before going in. Your doctor will decide if you need to be tested. If your symptoms are too severe to be managed at home, call 911 or call ahead to the emergency department. Use virtual visits if possible to avoid coming in contact with others.
- **Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water:** Do this often because it's the easiest, most effective way to keep from getting sick.
- **Follow other everyday prevention strategies:** Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available, clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, avoiding shaking hands or being in someone's personal space, get your flu shot, avoid touching your face, and cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue.

It is important to remember that these preventative measures are being put in place to reduce and slow the spread of COVID-19. Slowing down transmission is very important for our health care systems because it helps to make sure that they have the resources they need to treat their patients. The Rock County Public Health Department continues to work with our community partners to ensure they have access to the resources they need to respond to COVID-19 safely. In addition to working with our local partners, the Rock County Public Health Department is in communication with neighboring counties to collectively work towards reducing the impact of COVID-19 in our communities.

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