



Central Racine County  
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Serving the communities of:  
Caledonia, Dover, Mt. Pleasant, North Bay, Norway,  
Raymond, Rochester, Sturtevant, Union Grove,  
Yorkville, Town and Village of Waterford,  
Town and City of Burlington)

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **First Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in Racine County**

Central Racine County Health Department (CRCHD) announced today that a resident of Racine County has contracted COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). The Racine County resident was exposed while traveling internationally and is currently isolated at home.

“Central Racine County Health Department is actively working with this case, and CRCHD will continue to work with Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and our local partners to ensure the health and safety of our community,” said Margaret Gesner, Health Officer for Central Racine County Health Department. “It is important to note that this person is not linked with any school, childcare, or long-term care facility.”

Central Racine County Health Department, DHS and other local health departments are actively working to identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with this individual. These people are being asked to quarantine themselves for 14 days from their exposure and will be monitored for fever and respiratory symptoms. People who are quarantined and develop symptoms are tested for COVID-19. CRCHD will work with DHS to determine when the individual can be released from isolation. All actions taken are in accordance with DHS and CDC guidance. CRCHD is not releasing any further information about the resident.

"We are working with our partners and local hospital systems to ensure we are protecting the community as a whole," said Gesner. "Based on the latest CDC data, those at highest risk for serious disease include older adults, and people who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease. It is vital for the public to avoid getting sick by frequently and thoroughly washing their hands, covering their coughs and sneezes, avoiding touching their face, and staying home when sick."



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Gesner noted that with the declared Wisconsin and Racine County public health emergencies, the latest recommendations include:

- Limiting non-essential large community events and gatherings of 250 or more people.
- Those who provide gathering activities for older adults, such as senior centers and congregate dining facilities, should plan for alternative ways to remain engaged with them that minimize their risk.
- Avoiding all non-essential travel according to CDC travel guidelines. For domestic travel, DHS recommends against all non-essential travel to any U.S. state where the CDC deems there is sustained community transmission of COVID-19.
- For all travelers returning to Wisconsin from high risk areas including U.S. locations, DHS is recommending that those individuals self-quarantine at home for 14 days and monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Creating a household plan of action in case of illness in the household or disruption of daily activities due to COVID-19 in the community.
  - Consider 2-week supply for prescription and over the counter medications, food and other essentials
  - Establish ways to communicate with others (e.g. family, friends, co-workers)
  - Establish plans to telework, what to do about childcare needs, how to adapt to cancellation of events

For people who are ill and suspect they may have coronavirus, they should call their healthcare provider. Racine County health departments do not have tests or testing capacity.