



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RACINE COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE **March 19, 2020**

Overview: Today, the City of Racine Health Department (CoRPHD) announced two additional confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus). The residents were likely exposed in Wisconsin through community interactions. The department is actively investigating the circumstances and close contacts of the two individuals in Racine.

CoRPHD will be monitoring those contacts for development of fever and respiratory symptoms in accordance with DHS and CDC guidance. CoRPHD will not be releasing any further information about the residents.

Those experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are requested to call their health care provider for guidance. Racine County health departments do not have tests or testing capacity.

Number of confirmed coronavirus cases, as of 3 p.m. March 19, 2020:

U.S – 10,781
Wisconsin - 155
Racine County - 3

April 7 election

County and City officials are encouraging residents to request a mailed absentee ballot to vote early in the April 7 election. This is an easy way to make sure you protect you and your loved one while continuing to participate in the democratic process. Residents simply need to go www.myvote.wi.gov to request their ballot.

Racine County

It's no secret there's been a shortage of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) throughout the country. Racine County first responders are equipped to protect themselves and the public -- but we recognize the need for PPE will continue to increase as the coronavirus spreads.

Racine County is working with law enforcement agencies from throughout the County to obtain as much PPE as possible to ensure those on the front lines are protected in the weeks and months to come. In addition, Racine County dispatchers have added screening questions to identify potential coronavirus symptoms, and sheriff's deputies are practicing social distancing and responding by phone when possible.

We will continue to do everything we can to protect the health and safety of our first responders.

Public health

Reminders!

- DHS Emergency Order #5 prohibits all public and private gatherings of more than 10 people [with few exceptions](#).
- Practice social distancing!
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands often.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.

Health System COVID-19 Hotlines

Ascension: 1-833-981-0711

Advocate Aurora: 1-866-443-2584

Froedtert: 414-805-2000

City of Racine

Mayor Mason released the following statement after the City of Racine Public Health Department announced the first two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the City of Racine:

“Today, two City residents were confirmed to have coronavirus. It is all our hope they stay safe and recover quickly. While these are the first two official cases, they will not be the last. City administration has been working diligently with leaders from around the City, County, and State to respond to monitor the situation and deploy resources accordingly. We are doing everything we can to help flatten the curve and reduce the number of new possible cases of coronavirus in our community. We know health issues disproportionately impact our communities of color so we are taking intentional measures to protect the health of our entire community. But this is not something that can be done by government alone. We need our community to join us by following the guidelines from health experts - wash your hands often, avoid large groups and use social distancing. Please stay home as much as possible, particularly if you are sick, check in on your loved ones who are the most vulnerable, and only go out when it is necessary. As Mayor, I am committed to ensuring the health and safety of our community and will communicate more information as soon as we have it. If we work together, we will flatten the curve.”

Community Services

Health and Nutrition Service of Racine, Inc. provides the official Racine County WIC program for low to moderate income pregnant women, recently delivered women, breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk. WIC is doing all it can to ensure that benefits are not disrupted. Racine County WIC clients or potential WIC clients should call 262-637-7750 prior to coming to the office.

Resources

For the most current and up to date information on COVID-19, please go to the Centers for Disease Control's website:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

You can also find current information on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website, which has guidance that is updated regularly for travel, self-quarantine, and school districts, among other important information:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.htm>.

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