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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **RACINE COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE** **March 20, 2020**

### **Overview:**

As of 4 p.m. today, there is one additional confirmed case of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in the Central Racine County Health Department (CRCHD) jurisdiction. Central Racine County Health Department is actively working with this individual and identifying and contacting anyone who has been in close contact with this individual. CRCHD will be monitoring the contacts for the development of symptoms in accordance with DHS and CDC guidance. CRCHD will not be releasing any further information about the resident.

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

### **No. of coronavirus cases**

United States: 15,219  
Wisconsin: 206  
Racine County: 4

### **City of Racine**

City Creates Small Business Emergency Fund: During the COVID-19 crisis small businesses will be forced to make some tough decisions as they will be among the first to experience the economic impacts of the virus. The City of Racine is taking a proactive step in trying to assistance businesses by redirecting \$250,000 in federal funding to create a Small Business Emergency Fund for businesses that are under distress from the recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small businesses with up to 10 employees in the City of Racine are eligible to apply for a forgivable loan of up to \$15,000 in the new program. The forgivable loans target businesses that will retain 1 or more jobs and will require that business owners show the negative impacts of COVID-19 on their businesses. Full program details will be posted by Monday, March 23, 2020 at: <https://www.cityofracine.org/CDV/RFP/>

The City of Racine is taking additional measures to help businesses and property taxpayers during this time of crisis. These include:

- Property tax payments that were due March 31, 2020 will now be due April 30, 2020 in order to alleviate economic hardships of residents.

- Parking meters in front of restaurants and bars providing take-out food order will be bagged and turned into 15-minute loading zones to provide customers quick and easy access as they support local businesses.
- All other parking meter payments will be halted until at least April 20, 2020. Metered spots will now be free but limited to 2 hours during regular metered hours to allow access to local businesses.

### **Racine County**

Racine County has and will continue to follow all state orders on restricting gatherings. The County has no plans for any further restrictions and Governor Evers today reiterated he has no plans to institute a shelter in place at this time. We continue to encourage residents to stay home to the fullest extent possible.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) officially opened Thursday. EOCs are commonly organized during large or complex incidents that require a high degree of coordination between multiple agencies. The goal is to centralize local communications and properly allocate resources during the COVID-19 outbreak.

### **U.S. Census**

During this time of uncertainty, there is one important event that has not been cancelled, postponed or rescheduled: the 2020 Census. This nationwide count is key to all future federal funding, including for the Coronavirus, and our political representation.

It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail. The Census only takes 10 minutes, and asks the names, nationalities and number of people in your household. The Census is SAFE: it is illegal for the Census Bureau and Census workers to share your information with any other entity, including ICE, IRS, or DOJ. You do not need your Census ID to respond to the Census. As we are checking on our neighbors and family members in this time of crisis, please encourage them to go to [MyCensus2020.gov](https://MyCensus2020.gov) or call 844-330-2020 and take the Census. You matter.

### **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

### **Community services**

Non-Medical Questions: Impact 2-1-1's service is now accepting calls for questions related to COVID-19 that are non-medical in nature. These calls might pertain to such needs as:

- Food delivery programs for home-bound seniors

- Transportation options, as some public transit services have closed.
- Nutrition programs for children who rely on free and reduced meals at school

Residents across the state of Wisconsin can access this service by calling 2-1-1 (or 1-800-924-5514).

### **State of Wisconsin**

The State Department of Health Services released two new flyers - one on [shopping tips](#) and one with [tips for group settings](#), including homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, and correctional facilities.

### **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](http://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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