



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Media contact: Mark Schaaf (262) 977-1363

RACINE COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE May 15, 2020

Confirmed coronavirus cases

United States: 1,432,045

Wisconsin: 11,685

Central Racine County Health Department: 333 confirmed (101 probable); 12 deaths

City of Racine Health Department: 654 confirmed (82 probable); 6 deaths

Racine County total: 987 confirmed (183 probable); 18 deaths

Positive test percentage, 14-day average: 19%

Central Racine County and City of Racine Health Department

Through Thursday, the Wisconsin National Guard had conducted 1,285 tests at the drive-thru community clinic at Burlington High School. This partially explains the increase in Central Racine County Health Department's confirmed case counts, but the rise in cases also shows that it's more important than ever that residents continue to practice social distancing, frequently wash hands, wear a facemask or cloth cover, and stay home when sick to prevent the continued spread of COVID-19.

For a recap of the steps each health department is taking following the state Supreme Court decision overturning the Safer at Home order, [see the May 14 Joint Information Center update.](#)

City of Racine

Religious entities, such as churches, synagogues, temples and mosques, are now considered essential businesses under the City of Racine Public Health Department's local "Safer at Home" order that includes the "Turn the Dial" amendments and which is in effect until May 26th.

Religious entities are required to use technology to the greatest extent possible to avoid meeting in person. This means religious entities should keep services virtual as much as possible to limit the spread of COVID-19 in your community.

If you plan on hosting in-person religious services, please do the following:

- For buildings with less than or equal to 50,000 square feet of public space: the maximum number of people allowed is equal to 25% of the space's occupancy load, including staff.
- For buildings with more than 50,000 square feet of public space: the maximum number of people allowed is 4 per 1,000 square feet, **excluding** staff.
- Keep people who do not live together at least six feet apart as much as possible.
- Everyone who is able should wear a cloth face covering.
- Strongly consider not allowing choirs, as this has spread COVID-19 in the past. If you must have a choir, limit the number of singers, space them out at least 6 feet apart, and have everyone wear a cloth face covering.

- Staff must increase standards of facility cleaning and disinfection to limit exposure to COVID-19, as well as adopting protocols to clean and disinfect in the event of a positive COVID-19 case in the religious entity.
- Staff must adopt policies to prevent individuals from entering the premises if they display respiratory symptoms or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

For questions, contact the City of Racine Public Health Department at (262) 636-9201.

The City of Racine, in partnership with Racine County, the State of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin National Guard, will open a drive-thru COVID-19 community testing site next week at Festival Hall. The site will be open Monday, May 18th, through Friday, May 22nd from 9:00am to 6:00pm daily. The testing is free and open to the community. The City will have bilingual staff on hand to help with translation.

Racine County

As businesses begin to reopen, the Rebound Racine County Task Force report provides a sector-by-sector roadmap to help businesses protect public health and establish consumer confidence. The agricultural section, for example, includes best practices on PPE and sanitation; it provides guidelines on reopening farmer's markets; and offers advice on how to request financial assistance. The report also offers a mechanism for businesses to request needed PPE. [Read the full report here.](#)

Ascension All Saints Hospital

Dr. Janice Litza of Ascension All Saints Hospital has created two informational community videos in English and in Spanish which include useful information on how to avoid illness, access care and reduce stress. The videos can be viewed on the [City of Racine's Coronavirus website.](#)

Resources

For Racine County updates on the COVID-19 outbreak, please visit www.racinecounty.com/coronavirus. The City of Racine coronavirus webpage can be found at www.racinecoronavirus.org. The Central Racine County Health Department's COVID-19 page is www.crchd.com/covid-19.

For national 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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