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**Hurley, WI** - Iron County Public Health is reporting **137** positive COVID Iron County residents, including **131** recovered, **6** ever hospitalized, **1463** negative test results and **1** death.

Although Iron County COVID-19 positive rates are down, Iron County Health Officer, Katie Hampston warns, "We can't let our guard down."

Today Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers has declared a new public health emergency and issued a new masking order as cases of COVID-19 grow at a "near exponential rate."

Both orders go into effect immediately. They will expire after 60 days or with the declaration of a new order.

"Wisconsin is now experiencing unprecedented, near-exponential growth of the COVID-19 pandemic with the daily number of new cases rising from 678 on August 31st to 1,791 on September 21st, a 2.6-fold increase in three weeks, driven in part by the unprecedented number of infections among 18-24-year-olds," reads a statement from the governor's office.

Over the last seven days, the state has recorded a 16.4 percent positive rate.

The order requires people to wear masks or face coverings in enclosed spaces where people congregate. There are exceptions for those who have medical issues and cannot wear a mask.

The governor's previous mask order was set to expire soon.

"We continue to learn more about this virus, but what we do know is that we are facing a new and dangerous phase of the COVID-19 pandemic here in Wisconsin," said Gov. Evers. "We are seeing an alarming increase in cases across our state, especially on campus. We need folks to start taking this seriously, and young people especially—please stay home as much as you are able, skip heading to the bars, and wear a mask whenever you go out. We need your help to stop the spread of this virus, and we all have to do this together."

### **Influenza Vaccine Clinics**

The Health Department's vaccine suppliers have notified us that there are plenty of vaccines and there will not be a shortage this year, but shipments have been delayed until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, please note changes to the upcoming flu vaccine clinic schedule.

Upcoming drive-through clinic events include:

- September 29th, 10am -12pm – Mercer Community Center/Library
  - If cancelled above, postpone to October 8<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm
- October 7th, 2pm.- 4pm – Iron County Highway Garage, Hurley
- October 13<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12pm – Iron County Highway Garage, Hurley
- October 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12pm - Sherman Fire Department Garage, Springstead
- October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2pm-4pm- Mercer Community Center/Library

This schedule is subject to change, so please call 715-561-2191 for updates. Iron County Public Health and the CDC recommend that all residents get a flu shot from their regular provider if possible, but to get a vaccine from the health department or another community location, such as Walgreens, Walmart, or your local pharmacy.

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**Visit the Iron County Health Department website for updates and alerts.**

[www.ironcountypublichealth.org](http://www.ironcountypublichealth.org)

[www.facebook.com/ironcountyhealthdepartment](https://www.facebook.com/ironcountyhealthdepartment)

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