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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 17, 2020**

**Contact:** Iron County Health Department (ICHHD)

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**Hurley, WI** - Iron County Public Health is reporting **89** positive COVID Iron County residents, **76** are recovered, **3** ever hospitalized, **1261** negative test results and **1** death.

It is important for everyone to continue to be diligent. People without symptoms can spread the virus and may be visiting the same places as you are.

If a person who tested positive for COVID-19 was out in public during their potential time of communicability and if the amount of time they spent there could have resulted in a significant exposure for others, the health department announces this event or business to alert the public. **This is not intended to lay blame on any local businesses, and this does not mean that the business must close.** The health department is in contact with locations that have had potential exposure events and gives them information on quarantine and cleaning procedures to help those locations make decisions about when to close and how to safely continue to serve the public.

Iron County Public Health can confirm that there were positive cases identified at the following event and establishments:

- Mercer Sand Volleyball, Mercer, WI- Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 6pm- 9pm
- Liberty Way Tap House Mercer, WI-Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 4pm -6pm
- Tom's Country Café, Mercer, WI-August August 11<sup>th</sup> 7am-9am and August 14<sup>th</sup> 8:30am - noon

If you have been in these locations, monitor your symptoms. If you develop symptoms, isolate yourself and call your physician.

Please note that Iron County has seen another increase in cases since the second week in August. Everyone should follow public health recommendations for staying home whenever possible, social distancing, washing your hands, wearing a mask (cloth face covering) and avoiding social gatherings.

Local health officers and school administrators are currently working together to make decisions about reopening K-12 school buildings. One of the considerations in the Reopening School Building Risk Assessment Tool is the number of cases and whether there is evidence of ongoing person-to-person transmission in the community. High case numbers may impact school reopening. It is important for local and tribal public health officers, school district administrators, and other partners to work together to determine what is feasible, practical and acceptable given the unique needs and circumstances of our local community.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. We are in this together. We can choose to protect ourselves and each other, protect our community, and protect our local economy by changing our behavior to follow the health and safety guidelines listed above.

**Check the Iron County web page and Facebook for updates and alerts.**

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

<https://www.facebook.com/ironcountyhealthdepartment>

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