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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hurley, WI- Iron County Public Health is reporting a total of 24 positive COVID-19 cases and 1 death. This reporting is residents of Iron County only.

The Iron County Health Department and Board of Health is issuing an emergency mask advisory starting on Friday, July 17.

It encourages people 5 and older to wear masks when inside a building with other people who are not part of one's living unit. It applies to all of Iron County.

"We do not take this advisory lightly," Iron County Health Officer Katie Hampston said. "Not only do we need to be responsible citizens and protect our vulnerable and elderly population but be kind to others because your face covering protects me and mine protects you."

Hampston said this is not an order or a mandate but "a strong advisory." We should look at what Michigan has done and follow their lead.

The advisory says people should cover their mouths and noses when in public, including in businesses and on public transportation or whenever they leave the house. Masks can be handmade, purchased cloth masks or medical masks. The health department has some available in their lobby.

Given the rise of positive cases in our county and surrounding area, as well as the multitude of visitors coming to our area, we need to all be wearing face coverings to protect ourselves and others.

We hope people will implement it immediately, but the Friday start date ensures businesses have time to put up signage and people have time to get a mask if they don't have one.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. We are in this together. We can choose to protect ourselves and each other, and thereby protect our community and economy, by changing our behavior in accordance with the actions listed above.

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

www.ironcountypublichealth.org