



502 COPPER STREET, SUITE 2
HURLEY, WISCONSIN 54534
PHONE 715.561.2191
FAX 715.561.2836
TOLL FREE 1.800.561.2191
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH 715.561.4545

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Iron County Health Department (IChD)

July 13, 2020

Hurley, WI- Iron County Public Health is reporting a total of 17 positive COVID-19 cases and 1 death. This reporting is residents of Iron County only. Over the weekend public health staff completed interviews on all positive cases and then followed up with contact tracing. We rely on accurate information from the positive case patient to proceed with contact tracing. When an individual is identified as having COVID-19, IChD works to determine all the people that person may have had CLOSE contact with for more than a few minutes. Close contact is defined as within 6 feet of someone, with or without a mask, and for at least 15 minutes. IChD then contacts all those people keeping the identity of the positive case confidential, asks about symptoms, and requires isolation or quarantine for each person. If any of those people are identified to have symptoms themselves, IChD will then work to determine all the people that this new person may have had CLOSE contact with for more than a few minutes, then get in touch with those people. This is called contact tracing and IChD has experience doing this sort of work with other communicable diseases in the community.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: • Fever and chills • Cough • Shortness of breath • Loss of taste or smell • Sore throat • Fatigue and body/muscle aches • Diarrhea, vomiting and nausea

The public should continue to follow these preventive steps to protect our families, neighbors, and communities from the spread of this virus, including:

- Avoiding social gatherings of any size, with people of all ages who do not live together (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors and non-essential workers in your house);
- Practicing physical distancing when out in the community by staying 6 feet away from others;
- **Wear cloth face coverings;**
- Taking special precautions to protect high-risk individuals;
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes (into the sleeve, elbow, or tissue, and not hands);
- Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces;
- Not shaking hands;
- Avoiding touching your face;
- Staying at home as much as possible, avoid travel outside of your community.

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**