



Florence County Health Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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Supporting Safe Reopening in Florence County

Florence/WI—City—Within the last month, Florence County has seen a decrease in COVID 19 since April 3, 2020 and has experienced no deaths. Currently, 41 people have been tested with two positive cases. Florence County has .9% of the population tested which is similar to the state of Wisconsin at 1.1%. With the new guidelines to expand testing for those who are mildly symptomatic, public health officials hope to further increase the testing completed. Identifying cases early on, considerably reduces the exposure risk to others by providing quarantine measures to the individual and family members. Florence County Health Department recognizes the immense sacrifices healthcare workers and many in the community are making in order to keep it safe.

Public Health officials everywhere are working hard to trace and track all cases in our communities to better understand and contain the spread of COVID-19. Based on information about positive tests for COVID-19, health departments are also carefully using quarantine and isolation measures to protect families and communities from the spread of COVID-19. This will help us reopen jurisdictions as quickly and safely as possible.

“Public health collaborates to create an environment in which communities thrive. And a thriving community includes a thriving economy, all of which is driven by the health and wellbeing of our friends and neighbors,” said Annette Seibold/Health Officer. “Our goal is to prevent and respond to the spread of disease to best support our community’s health. By working with partners to support healthy people, we also help to support our local economy and our ability to reopen safely and responsibly.”

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and local health departments will have/has resources available to support the safe reopening of our community, including tips and tools for employee and customer safety, cleaning and sanitation, and monitoring and reporting outbreaks. Local health departments will continue to closely monitor local and regional data and work with all partners to develop plans that promote the health of our local communities.

Connecting you to a **Better Life!**

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

- If experiencing mild flu like symptoms, contact your healthcare provider for testing
- 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;
- If you feel comfortable doing so, wearing 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.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. Florence County Health Department and DHS are doing what they can to communicate updates and information via the local health departments social media and website and @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

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