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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 2, 2020**

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

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**Hurley, WI** - Iron County Public Health is reporting **147** positive COVID Iron County residents, including **139** recovered, **7** ever hospitalized, **1528** negative test results and **1** death.

The numbers of COVID-19 cases and positivity rates have been rising across the Midwest. Regional health systems including Aspirus, Ascension, and Marshfield report that they are continuing to see an increase in COVID-19 related hospitalizations and patients testing positive, particularly in the last few weeks. They have been working hard for the last six months to prepare for this surge, but increased case numbers are stressing the resources of health system staff and hospital bed availability.

The Hurley School announced today that three students tested positive after being tested because they were a close contact of a positive case. By deciding to get tested even though they were asymptomatic, these students and their families provided information that can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the school and in the community. The Hurley School District is working closely with the health department to follow current protocol and remain consistent. Being proactive, working closely with health professionals, and being transparent with families and the community puts everyone in the best position to keep our schools open to provide the best learning opportunity for all students.

We are far from being clear of danger, but we have the power to turn things around. To help meet this challenge, we must work together as a community, take this seriously, and take the steps we know can reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Everyone can make a big difference in the health of our communities by following the guidance of public health agencies: wear a face covering, practice social distancing, wash your hands frequently, avoid high-risk situations, and stay home if you are sick. We encourage everyone to avoid gatherings and travel. Now is not the time to become complacent.

It is also more important than ever to get your flu shot. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend all people six months and older get flu vaccinations to protect themselves and others from getting the flu.

Upcoming drive-through flu shot clinic events include:

- October 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Mercer Community Center/Library

- October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the general public, then 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. for Iron County employees and teachers only – Iron County Highway Garage
- October 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Hurley Highway Garage
- October 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Sherman Fire Department Garage, Springstead
- October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – 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, if necessary.

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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>