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Hurley, WI - Iron County Public Health is reporting **170** positive COVID Iron County residents, including **153** recovered, **19** probable*, **9** ever hospitalized, **1691** negative test results and **1** death.

*A person is counted as a probable case of COVID-19 if they are not positive by a confirmatory laboratory test method (for example, a PCR or molecular test), but tested positive using an antigen test method; have symptoms of COVID-19 AND known exposure to COVID-19 (for example, being a close contact of someone who was diagnosed with COVID-19); or list COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2 on the death certificate.

This week the health department put out a health advisory at Southgate and Villa Vista due to increase in positive COVID-19 cases. The elderly population is more vulnerable and at risk of hospitalization and death. Some of us get sicker from COVID-19 than others, but **all** of us can help protect the people, places, and experiences that matter most. Taking just a few simple steps to stop the spread of COVID-19 reduces the risk for those around you. Avoid gatherings, stay home if you can and if you must go out wear a mask. Because we're all connected—by our health, by our actions, and by our commitment to each other. When you do, you help protect everyone in our community.

The health department calls everyone with a positive COVID-19 test result. Part of the interview is to ask who they had contact with to help prevent further spread of the virus. Contacts are put in quarantine for 14 days, reducing the further spread of COVID-19. Most positive cases have between 1 and 20 contacts. These contacts are followed to monitor for symptoms and test if needed. Someone who is sick with COVID-19 can spread it to others from two days before they show any symptoms until about one day after they recover. Not everyone with COVID-19 will get sick. Those who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, but never had symptoms, may still be able to spread it to others.

COVID-19 is a novel virus that has caused confusion and uncertainty. Public health is working in uncharted waters with the CDC, State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services, other health department, local hospitals and others. HIPAA rules must be followed while trying to provide as much transparency and accurate information as possible. Please do your part to protect our seniors and vulnerable populations in the community and call the health department if you have questions.

No vaccine has been received as of today.

While we are waiting for vaccine, we encourage residents to seek other options including your health care provider, other open flu clinics, White Cross Pharmacy, Walgreen's and Walmart.

Visit the Iron County Health Department website for updates and alerts.

www.ironcountypublichealth.org

www.facebook.com/ironcountyhealthdepartment

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases-map.htm>