

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 4, 2020**

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

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**Hurley, WI** - Iron County Public Health is reporting **366** positive COVID Iron County residents, including **365** recovered, **71** probable\*, **24** ever hospitalized, **2090** negative test results and **15** deaths.

\*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.

**Next Hurley drive-thru COVID-19 test date is Tuesday, December 8, 2020 from 10AM to 4PM at the Hurley Fire Station.**

If you have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case or have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, chills, cough, fatigue, body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea) please be tested at this FREE testing site run by the Wisconsin National Guard. If you are symptomatic or awaiting test results PLEASE self-quarantine.

**Options for Reducing the Duration of Quarantine for Individuals Exposed to COVID-19**

**Summary**

- Quarantine, defined as the strict physical separation of individuals who have been exposed to a communicable disease, is an essential strategy for preventing the spread of COVID-19. Ideally, quarantine should be continued for the full incubation period (i.e., the period during which an exposed person is at risk for becoming infectious), which for the SARS-CoV-2 virus is 14 days.
- In accordance with [recently revised CDC guidelines](#), DHS supports shortening the standard quarantine period from 14 days to 10 days for people who remain asymptomatic, provided that daily symptom monitoring continues for the full 14 day period. This change is based on modeling data suggesting that the residual risk of transmission is very low after 10 days, and the expectation that a less burdensome requirement may improve community compliance with quarantine and contact tracing.
- The duration of quarantine may be further shortened to 7 days using a test-based strategy. Individuals may be released from quarantine after 7 days if an FDA authorized diagnostic test (PCR or antigen) is collected within 48 hours of the proposed end of quarantine (i.e.

on day 6 or 7 of quarantine), the result is negative, and that symptom monitoring continues for the full 14 day period. This is a change from previous CDC and DHS guidance that quarantine should continue for 14 days regardless of any test results.

- DHS has previously recommended that quarantined healthcare personnel may be asked to work in patient care settings during critical staffing shortages, using a strategy of serial testing during the 14 day quarantine period. Because of the non-zero risk of developing infection between days 7-14 following exposure, and the potential risk this creates for patients, DHS continues to recommend strict symptom monitoring *and* serial testing for 14 days while HCPs are on duty, even if they have met the community standard for shortened quarantine.
- Shortened quarantine duration may not be appropriate in all settings. High-risk, congregate settings such as long-term care facilities, shelters, jails and prisons must determine on a case by case basis whether potential benefits of shortened quarantine outweigh the risks of post-quarantine transmission.

**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>**