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Hurley, WI- Iron County Public Health is reporting **78** positive COVID Iron County residents, **70** are recovered, **3** ever hospitalized, **1234** negative test results and **1** death.

If a person who tested positive for COVID-19 was out in public during their potential time of communicability and if the time spent there could have resulted in a significant exposure for others (CDC says a person is within 6 feet distance for at least 15 minutes of close contact). **This is not intended to lay blame on any local businesses**, anyone who tests positive (people may not have symptoms during their period of communicability and may not know they are sick), or other locations identified. It is meant to allow the public to better know their potential risk of being previously exposed to someone who has tested positive.

It is important for everyone to continue to be diligent as people without symptoms can spread the virus and may be visiting the same places as you are. Public Health can confirm that there were positive cases identified at the following event and establishment:

- Mercer Sand Volleyball, Mercer, WI- Aug 11th 6pm- 9pm
- Liberty Way Tap House Mercer, WI-Aug 8th 4pm -6pm

If you have been at this gathering or establishment, monitor your symptoms. If you develop symptoms isolate yourself and call your physician.

CDC, DHS and public health does not advise large gatherings, and there is no projected timeframe available as to when this advisory would change. Event planners should work closely with local health departments and local law enforcement on any future plans and decisions.

Public health experts agree that large gatherings of people in sustained, close contact greatly increases the risk for spread of the virus among those who attend the events and to the communities these individuals return to after the event. The communal nature of such events makes it especially challenging to accommodate the physical distancing and sanitation recommendations required to slow the spread of disease. This includes but is not limited to fairs, festivals, parades, and conferences.

In terms of planning events for this summer or fall, the best guidance is to *proceed with caution*. Work with your local health departments and consider all possible options given the potential for large group

gathering cancellations due to COVID-19. Wherever possible, DHS urges event organizers to host virtual or other non-contact events that can build the same sense of community and celebration.

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;
- 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