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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 23, 2020

Contact: Iron County Health Department (IHD)

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Hurley, WI - Iron County Public Health is reporting **179** positive COVID Iron County residents, including **158** recovered, **23** probable*, **10** ever hospitalized, **1702** negative test results and **2** 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.

Testing 101

Currently, three main categories of tests are available for use, molecular (PCR), antigen, and serologic (antibody) tests. Of these, only molecular and antigen tests are approved for diagnosis of acute COVID-19.

While antigen tests are less expensive and have a shorter turnaround time than most molecular tests (PCR), they are less accurate, and results should be interpreted carefully. Rapid SARS-CoV-2 antigen tests perform best when used for diagnosis of COVID-19 in patients with symptoms of acute respiratory infection. Positive tests in symptomatic patients, or when there is a high pre-test probability (e.g., in outbreak settings or among close contacts of exposed cases), should be considered presumptive evidence of infection and do not require confirmatory testing. Because of the risk of false negative results, symptomatic patients who have a negative antigen test result should be re-tested with an alternative method to confirm the result.

Molecular tests are recommended to diagnose acute infection and are required to be counted in the DHS Data. Molecular (PCR) tests detect viral nucleic acids from respiratory specimens (nasal swabs).

If you had symptoms of COVID-19 and have since recovered, or if you think you may have had it but did not show symptoms, you may be able to get an antibody test. Antibody tests will not tell you if you currently have COVID-19 but can let you know if you had it at some time in the past.

Community testing sites are not providing antibody testing currently. If you would like an antibody test, contact your doctor to ask for one.

FREE COVID 19 TESTING

provided by the Iron Co. Health Dept. & the National Guard

HURLEY FIRE HALL

405 5th Ave N, Hurley, WI 54534

**AVAILABLE 8:00AM - 4:00PM
ON THE FOLLOWING DATES**

October 27, 2020

November 10, 2020

December 8, 2020

No residency restrictions

For more information contact:

Iron Co. Health Dept., 502 Copper St, Suite 2, Hurley, WI 54534

715-561-2191



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>