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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **RACINE COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE March 18, 2020**

**Overview:** Public officials and agencies throughout Racine County are working around the clock to provide essential services to residents and protect public health. The changes implemented here and throughout the country the past few days have been extremely disruptive and difficult for so many of us. But we are all in this together. We are all doing our part to protect our family members, friends, and neighbors.

We continue to ask residents to keep appropriate social distance from others, stay home unless absolutely necessary, and practice healthy habits including frequent hand washing, avoiding touching your face, and disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces.

### **Number of confirmed coronavirus cases, as of 3 p.m. March 18, 2020:**

U.S – 7,038  
Wisconsin - 72  
Racine County - 1

### **Public health**

As of March 17, 2020, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) and the Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory (MHDL) are limiting testing to the highest priority patients and health care workers. Although both laboratories have significantly increased their capacity for COVID-19 testing, the number of samples being received exceeds daily capacity. Both laboratories will be testing high-priority samples from hospitalized patients and health care workers seven days a week for the foreseeable future. Test requests that do not meet the criteria will be sent to other labs in the state and country for testing.

With the increased number of COVID-19 cases reported nationally and identified community spread in Wisconsin, health care providers are urged to prioritize testing for hospitalized patients for whom timely diagnosis of COVID-19 is critical. Testing should be prioritized based on clinical criteria. There is no role for testing asymptomatic patients.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services says that testing is not recommended for people with mild, upper respiratory symptoms, or those with mild illnesses for which they would not normally seek medical care. It is recommended that these individuals self-isolate at home until their symptoms improve.

### **Racine County**

County Board Chairman Rusty Clark, in coordination with County Executive Jonathan Delagrave, has cancelled all County Board meetings through Friday, March 27.

Filings will continue to be processed in all court cases via the Wisconsin Courts' eFiling System and by mail. The Clerk of Court's service counters will be closed. Paper documents will NOT be accepted in person. Instead, visitors may file documents by using the blue drop box located at the Clerk of Circuit Court's office on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Racine County Courthouse until further notice. Payments will be processed using Wisconsin Courts' payment system (available on the [www.wicourts.gov](http://www.wicourts.gov) website). Payments by check or money order will be accepted by mail or in the Clerk's Office drop box. Cash payments will not be accepted during this period of extraordinary circumstances. The Clerk of Courts' Office can be reached at (262) 636-3333 or [RCClerkofCourts@racinecounty.com](mailto:RCClerkofCourts@racinecounty.com).

Today, Wednesday, March 18, was the first day in which nonessential functions at county buildings were closed to the public. This affects items such as birth and marriage certificates and land permits; services such as the workforce development center; court functions like jury duty; and various other services and programs. Please note Racine County continues to provide services, but residents will largely access county government over the phone or online. For more information, including contact information, [click here](#).

## **State of Wisconsin**

Effective at 8 a.m. Thursday, March 19, childcare settings are limited to no more than 10 staff members and 50 children present at one time, according to an order from the state Department of Health Services.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. announced a \$5 million grant program to support small businesses and micro-enterprises adversely economically impacted by the COVID-19 Virus. [More information here](#). Gov. Tony Evers also submitted a request to the U.S. Small Business Administration for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance for small Wisconsin businesses, as well as private nonprofit organizations, to help alleviate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Orders currently in effect include a statewide school closure; no gatherings of 10 people or more; and takeout or delivery only for bars and restaurants. The state has released a [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) on the new restrictions on mass gatherings.

## **Resources**

For the most current and up to date information on COVID-19, please go to the Centers for Disease Control's website: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

You can also find current information on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website, which has guidance that is updated regularly for travel, self-quarantine, and school districts, among other important information: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.htm>.

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