



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RACINE COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE **April 17, 2020**

Confirmed coronavirus cases

United States: 661,712
Wisconsin: 4,045
Central Racine County Health Department: 86 (5 deaths)
City of Racine Health Department: 77 (3 deaths)
Racine County total: 163 (8 deaths)

City of Racine

The COVID-19 pandemic reached a new peak Thursday in the City of Racine with 11 new confirmed cases and another death. The City of Racine Public Health Department now has 77 confirmed cases and three deaths to date. Sixty of the cases are active, including 15 who have been hospitalized. Twelve confirmed cases have recovered. You can find more information and a demographic breakdown of the City information [here](#).

The city's update came just one day after Gov. Tony Evers directed Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Andrea Palm to extend the Safer at Home order from April 24 to 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 26, or until a superseding order is issued.

Racine Mayor Cory Mason urged Racine residents to continue to abide by the Safer at Home state order.

"We still have some work to do to flatten the curve of this pandemic. And the only way we can do that is to do it together. If we stay home we will save lives," Mason said.

New support from small businesses is coming from the City. The City understands the economic pains the pandemic has inflicted upon small businesses. Mayor Mason plans to announce the availability of at least \$650,000 in additional assistance for Racine's small businesses next week. The details of that assistance and the process for applications will be announced next week and be available online via the City website and the racinecoronavirus.org

As of April 16, DHS announced that testing capacity in Wisconsin has grown to approximately 7,500 COVID-19 tests daily. Health care providers are encouraged to obtain COVID-19 testing for all who are symptomatic, even patients with mild symptoms. This serves an important public health purpose in the next phase of Wisconsin's COVID-19 response, which will require aggressive efforts for finding and isolating cases in the community.

Multiple studies have demonstrated that obese patients are at greater risk of severe complications from COVID-19, including more hospitalizations. This not only affects those greater than 65 years but also younger individuals. Approximately 40% of the U.S. population is

considered obese. We can't change our age, but even short-term efforts to improve health and weight while sheltering in place may pay big dividends. Take this time to exercise while observing the Safer at Home order.

Central Racine County Health Department

DHS now recommends health care providers test all patients with acute respiratory illness for COVID-19. According to the Bureau of Communicable Diseases:

- Health care providers are encouraged to obtain COVID-19 testing for all who are symptomatic, even patients with mild symptoms. This serves an important public health purpose in the next phase of Wisconsin's COVID-19 response, which will require aggressive efforts for finding and isolating cases in the community.
- Clinicians must play a crucial role in the COVID-19 response if we hope to prevent future waves of infection. Widespread testing, coupled with high-intensity contact tracing, isolation and quarantine will require close partnership between clinicians and local public health agencies.
- Although overall laboratory capacity has increased significantly, not all health systems have equal access to reference laboratories with acceptable turnaround time. Some resources necessary for widespread testing remain limited in different regions of the state. DHS is actively working to help remedy these inequities.

Resources

For Racine County updates on the COVID-19 outbreak, please visit www.racinecounty.com/coronavirus. The City of Racine coronavirus webpage can be found at www.racinecoronavirus.org. The Central Racine County Health Department's COVID-19 page is www.crchd.com/covid-19.

For national information on COVID-19, please go to the Centers for Disease Control's website: 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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