



RICE COUNTY

320 Third Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021

PRESS RELEASE

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COVID-19 Situation Update – Rice County

Minnesota currently has 60 confirmed cases of COVID-19, none identified in Rice County as of March 17th. Some of these cases are related to community transmission. 4 of the cases are in southeast Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Governor Walz have strongly recommended and implemented measures to help slow the spread of COVID 19 in Minnesota. This is for the health and safety of all.

Rice County Public Health would like to stress that everyone has a role in “flattening the curve” of disease spread. This includes individuals and families, schools, senior living and congregate settings, community and faith-based organization, health care settings and workplaces.

Some measures include:

Postponing and cancelling events where 50 people or more would gather, as well as smaller events that don't allow distancing of 6 feet per person. (CDC recommendation)

By order of the governor beginning March 17th, places of public accommodation are closed to members of the public, including but not limited to dine-in restaurants, bars, clubs, recreations centers, entertainment facilities, sports clubs, etc.

Healthcare facilities and congregate living setting are restricting visitors, and changing processes to protect individuals and help decrease the risk for exposures.

Public Health officials are recommending anyone 70 years and older, and those with underlying health conditions stay home if possible, and avoid gatherings and other instances of potential exposures, including travel.

Current recommendation is that if you are sick with respiratory symptoms or fever, stay at home for 7 days after illness onset, or 72 hours after resolution of the fever, whichever is longer.

If you can manage your symptoms, you don't need to be tested – testing would not change the recommendations for your care or how you would be clinically managed since there is not a vaccine or medication to treat COVID-19 at this time.

As always, for those who are so ill they need to seek medical attention, they should call their health care provider.

Reminders of what you can do:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Stay home when you are sick
- Avoid crowds and practice social distancing of 6 feet

Stay informed

- The most up to date information about COVID-19 can be found on the MDH and CDC websites:

CDC website on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Minnesota Department of Health - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

To protect the public's health and to slow the rate of transmission we all need to do our part.

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