



RICE COUNTY

320 Third Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021

PRESS RELEASE

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March 28, 2020

Update on Lab Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Rice County

Rice County Public Health was notified March 27th by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) of a third lab confirmed case of COVID-19 in Rice County. Information indicates the case was not hospitalized, is in their 50's, and was not linked to travel or close contact with a lab confirmed case.

As of March 28th, Minnesota has had 441 lab confirmed cases of COVID-19, and approximately 16,129 completed tests. Cases indicate community transmission in Minnesota. 57 total cases have required hospitalization and there have been 5 deaths.

The "Stay Home and Limit Movement" order which went into effect today for at least the next two weeks, will help reduce contact by 80% and help push out the rate of infection. This mitigation measure and others are for the health and safety of everyone, to help slow the spread of infectious disease and place less demand on the health care sector so the most seriously ill people get the supportive care they need.

It is very important for those who are sick with respiratory symptoms or fever, and who feel they can manage their symptoms to stay at home for 7 days after illness onset, or 72 hours after resolution of the fever, whichever is longer. If you are older or have underlying medical conditions, it may be helpful to let your health care provider know you are sick. They may have some specific advice for you.

For those who are so ill they need to seek medical attention, call ahead and your medical provider will tell you what to do.

Public Health officials recommend that anyone 65 years and older, and those with underlying health conditions stay home as possible, and avoid gatherings and other instances of potential exposures, including travel.

Reminders of what you can do:

- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- If you are sick, stay home and keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick
- Maintain 6 foot distancing whenever possible
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water
- Cover your coughs and sneezes

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>

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