



Bayfield County Health Department

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*Sara Wartman, BSN, RN, CLS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2020

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SECOND CASE OF COVID-19 AND CONFIRMED COMMUNITY SPREAD IN BAYFIELD COUNTY

The Bayfield County Health Department has identified a second case of COVID-19 and the first case of community spread of COVID-19 in Bayfield County. The lab-confirmed positive case received today, March 26, 2020, did not have a history of travel or contact with a known positive case of COVID-19. This is the first case of COVID-19 categorized as community spread in Bayfield County.

“This report provides even more reason to take Governor Evers’ ‘Safer at Home’ order seriously,” said Sara Wartman, Public Health Officer for Bayfield County. “We fully expect to see additional cases of the virus in the county but hope that our outreach and guidance is helping to convince county residents to stay home to disrupt the spread of the virus. This is crucial to reducing the spread and flattening the curve.”

Public health efforts at this time are focused concurrently on containing spread of this virus and mitigating the impact of this virus. The health department completes comprehensive investigation of all communicable diseases. We are actively investigating this case and anyone identified as potentially at risk will be contacted by the health department.

Staying home, social distancing, and self-isolating is the only way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community. At this time, we are asking the public’s help.

- If you are experiencing any respiratory symptoms, such as cold, cough, fever or difficulty breathing, please stay home.
- If you have recently returned from out of the area, please stay home.
- If you have been notified you were a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, please stay home.
- And for everyone else – unless working in an essential service, again, please stay at home and avoid unnecessary trips in your community.



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We cannot stress enough how important it is that everyone follow Governor Evers SAFER AT HOME ORDER to do our part to help slow the spread of COVID-19 so we can flatten the curve to ensure our doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers have the opportunity to do their important work. We have limited healthcare capacity and are home to vulnerable populations, including the elderly. So please stay home and keep yourself safe and others safe.

For local updates about COVID-19 and other public health news, follow the Bayfield County Health Department at <https://www.bayfieldcounty.org/COVID>. For updates on COVID-19 in WI, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.htm>.

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