



Bayfield County Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Bayfield County Public Health Department today confirmed the first death of a Bayfield County resident due to COVID-19. The individual was 78 years old, had no known contact with a lab confirmed positive COVID-19 case nor had traveled out of the area. This person had been hospitalized for over three weeks and had not recently traveled in the community.

Out of respect for the privacy of the individual and their family, we will not be disclosing any additional information. "It is with great sadness that we announce that one of Bayfield County's citizens has passed away from COVID-19. We extend our deepest sympathies to the family, friends and community," said Health Officer Sara Wartman. "We are facing extraordinary circumstances and continue to urge everyone that this virus is real, it is deadly, and we must continue to maintain social-distancing and adhere to the 'Safer At Home' Order. Together, we will overcome these challenges and difficult days."

COVID-19 is in our community and likely being spread by individuals who don't even know they have it. It is critical that all Bayfield County residents keep taking social distancing seriously and follow the 'Safer At Home' Order. As of today, there are 4,045 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in the State of Wisconsin. Statewide, 205 individuals have died due to complications related to COVID-19.

Staying home, social distancing, and self-isolating is the only way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

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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