

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Recap of National Guard Testing and Order #36

Wisconsin Rapids, WI – On Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9 the National Guard assisted the Wood County Health Department to provide community testing in Wisconsin Rapids for individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and frontline workers with or without symptoms. The Wisconsin State Emergency Operation Center and National Guard were instrumental in both making this testing available and administering the tests.

Over the course of the two days, 267 people were tested and results have been processed on the majority of these tests. One new positive case was identified in Wood County and three positive cases identified in neighboring counties through the Wisconsin Rapids drive-through testing. In addition to the one Wood County positive identified through National Guard testing, another positive test was identified through a local health system. A total of 985 Wood County residents have now been tested for COVID-19, with four of those tests resulting positive. One of the four positive cases is currently symptomatic and isolated at home. Two have recovered and one remains asymptomatic. The asymptomatic patient is also isolating at home and monitoring for symptoms. Contact tracing is underway for both new positive cases.

The health department extends their gratitude to the National Guard and other community partners who assisted in planning, implementing, and promoting the testing site. For a current listing of community testing sites visit dhs.wisconsin.gov/testing.

Today, Gov. Tony Evers announced Emergency Order #36 which reduces restrictions on some businesses. Standalone or strip mall-based retail stores with entrances to the outside may offer in-person shopping for up to five customers at a time. Face coverings are strongly encouraged for staff and customers and physical distancing must be observed at all times.

In-person retail businesses must:

- Restrict the number of employees working on the premises; policies must ensure employees do not report to work if they have respiratory symptoms or have had contact with a known positive COVID-19 case.
- Increase cleaning and disinfecting procedures.
- Create clear markings where customers should stand while waiting to enter the store.
- Follow required Safe Business Practices as outlined in the previous [Safer at Home order](#).

It is recommended that all businesses review the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) publications (<https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines>). The publications include general guidelines for all

businesses to follow as well as industry-specific advice. Specific guidance is provided for restaurants, retailers, manufacturers, professional offices, farmers, manufacturers, builders, hotel and motel operators, personal care services, and other fields. Businesses providing services rather than goods, such as hair salons, barber shops, nail salons, day spas, body art establishments, tanning facilities, and other personal care businesses, must remain closed at this time, but are encouraged to review the WEDC publications to prepare for re-opening.

Some general advice for all businesses:

- Ensure employees who are sick do not report to work.
- Limit business travel whenever possible.
- Support virtual meetings and work-from-home arrangements.
- Ensure employees have access to hand sanitizer or handwashing, gloves, and face masks when appropriate.

Local seamstresses have been busy making homemade masks. Both United Way of South Wood and Adams County and Marshfield Area United Way have homemade masks available for distribution. These masks come with both wearing and washing instructions.

If you have questions or immediate needs related to COVID-19, call United Way's 2-1-1 or text COVID-19 to 211211. For up-to-date information, please visit the Wood County Health Department website and Facebook page.

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