The Health Department is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak with information from WI Department of Health Services and the CDC. As of yesterday, March 5\textsuperscript{th} at 9:30 pm, CDC reported the following statistics in the US:

- 99 confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19
- 10 COVID-19 related deaths
- 13 states and New York City are reporting cases of COVID-19

WI Department of Health Services reports that while testing is ongoing, there has been only 1 lab confirmed case of COVID-19 in Wisconsin. That individual has fully recovered and has been released from isolation. Testing for COVID-19 is now available at the Wisconsin State Lab in Madison and the Milwaukee Health Department Lab. Testing must be approved by Wisconsin Department of Health Services before specimens can be submitted for testing.

Influenza cases remain at a high level in WI at this time.

As I’m sure you’ve heard via news media, messaging from CDC continues to reinforce the importance of non-pharmaceutical interventions which include:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60%-95% alcohol
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw it in the trash can
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick with respiratory disease symptoms
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects

**PEOPLE AT HIGH RISK OF SERIOUS COVID-19 ILLNESS**

- Older adults and persons who have severe chronic medical conditions seem to be at higher risk for more serious COVID-19 illness.
- Early data suggest older people are twice as likely to have serious COVID-19 illness. This may be because:
  As people age, their immune systems change, making it harder for their body to fight off diseases and infection.
  Many older adults are also more likely to have underlying health conditions that make it harder to cope with and recover from illness.
  **If you are at increased risk for COVID-19 complications due to age or a severe underlying medical condition, it is especially important for you to take actions to reduce your risk of exposure.**

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CDC Travel health notices are available at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html

Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak Page at: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

WI Department of Health Services Outbreaks in Wisconsin: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm

As always, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Health Department.

Kathy

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