



Vilas County Public Health Department

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For Immediate Release: May 5, 2021

RE: Joint Northern Region Local and Tribal Public Health Statement Urging Wisconsinites to Continue Following COVID-19 Recommendations

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Joint Northern Region Local and Tribal Public Health Statement Urging Wisconsinites to Continue Following COVID-19 Recommendations

Local and tribal health departments are jointly reminding everyone that even though we have started vaccinating for COVID-19, it is important that we remain diligent in our efforts of fighting this virus. Our organizations are working together to inform, educate, and protect everyone in our communities from COVID-19. We are doing everything we can, but we need your help. **You are the most important part of stopping this pandemic.**

The Northern Region of Wisconsin is still seeing cases of COVID-19, including those from COVID-19 variants. These variants are now the predominant strain in Wisconsin and are causing us to take a step backwards in our fight against COVID-19 because those that had COVID-19 previously are not immune to these new strains. We are seeing more and more people become re-infected. Surrounding states, such as Michigan and Minnesota, are experiencing high numbers of these cases and the Northern Region has also seen increases in cases the last three weeks. This is also important because even though your local hospital may not have significant impacts from COVID-19, patient transfers may be impacted or delayed.

Despite vaccination occurring, there is still a large population that hasn't been vaccinated, including those under 16, who are not yet approved to be vaccinated. Only one of the below signed counties has over 46% of their eligible population fully vaccinated. Continuing to take the actions below can help protect children and your loved ones. What we do know is that the vaccine is effective against all strains and this is your #1 defense.

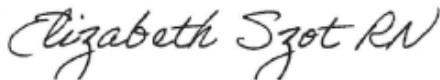
Children can get sick and spread COVID-19 to others in schools, families and the community. There have been 90 children in Wisconsin that have developed multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). MIS-C is a rare, but serious condition where parts of the body can become inflamed. Children that have been diagnosed with MIS-C have been diagnosed with or been around someone with COVID-19.

Here is how you can help:

- **Wear a Mask.** When worn properly, masks do work and save lives.
- **Physically Distance.** Stay at least 6-feet from people who don't live in your household.

- **Wash your Hands Often.**
- **Avoid Large Gatherings.** Large gatherings put you, everyone at the gathering, and everyone you come into contact with after the gathering at risk.
- **Get Vaccinated.** You can find information on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines and how to get vaccinated by visiting your county or healthcare provider's website.

This has been extremely difficult for everyone, but we need to stay the course of prevention and mitigation. We know that there is a desire to cut back on the strategies wherever possible, but congregate settings are not the place to do it. The strategies that schools and others have put together work together. Simply put, handwashing, physical distancing, masking, and vaccination are efforts that work best when practiced together.



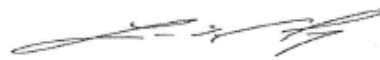
Health Officer/PH Administrator
Ashland County Health and Human Services



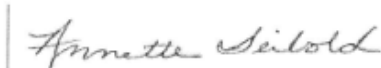
Health Officer
Marathon County Health Department



Health Officer/Director
Bayfield County Health Department



Health Officer/Director
Oneida County Health Department



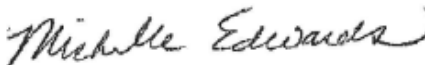
Health Officer/Director
Florence County Health Department




Health Officer
Portage County Health and Human Services



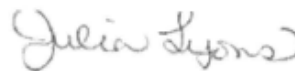
Health Officer/Director
Forest County Health Department



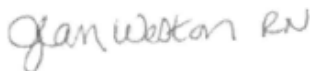
Health Officer
Price County Health and Human Services



Health Officer/Director
Iron County Health Department

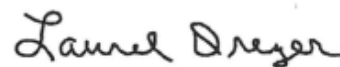


Health Officer
Sawyer County Health and Human Services



Health Officer
Langlade County Health Department

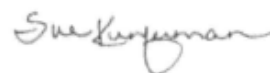
Health Officer/Director
Taylor County Health Department



Health Officer/Director
Vilas County Health Department



Health Officer/Director
Lincoln County Health Department



Health Officer/Director
Wood County Health Department