



ITASCA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ITASCA RESOURCE CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ITASCA COVID CASES STILL CLIMBING AS STATE ENTERS THIRD PHASE OF RECOVERY

(Grand Rapids, Minn., June 8, 2020) – Additional cases of COVID-19 in Itasca County were identified over the weekend. As of 1:00 p.m. on June 8, more than 60 Itasca County residents have received laboratory confirmed diagnoses, which will appear in the Minnesota Department of Health’s database in coming days. Itasca deaths also unfortunately rose to 11, with the passing of a female in her 80s due to the virus.

Itasca area businesses and other facilities will continue to progressively open under Governor Walz’s declaration that the state may move into Phase 3 of its Stay Safe Minnesota plan.

“It’s heartening to know that, statewide, Minnesota cases of COVID-19 are stabilizing,” said Kelly Chandler, department manager for Itasca County Public Health. “This means increased opening for some facilities and gatherings, but not all. Readiness is key, with safety plans and materials in place, training of staff, cooperation of patrons, and other measures. Things will continue to evolve, often quickly, and not always in the ways we want them to. In this environment, be sure to call ahead or check websites as to openings.”

Minnesota Department of Health also has announced proactive testing of those who participated in and responded to recent protests, vigils and clean-up efforts. “COVID-19 can spread easily and quickly in large groups of people who are close together for long periods of time,” according to a department statement. “Some people do not have symptoms but can still spread the virus to others. If you participated in a protest, vigil, or other neighborhood event, you should get tested.”

All three Itasca County testing sites (Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital, Essentia Health Deer River and Bigfork Valley/Scenic Rivers) are available to provide tests for those participating in or responding to recent protests. Each facility has a slightly different process, so call ahead for guidance.

Itasca County’s Message Center is available for those with COVID-related issues and needs at 218-327-6784. Response calls will be made between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



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Helpful resources:

Information on testing related to protests, vigils and clean-ups:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites.html>

Note to media: Itasca County Health Department will host 30-minute press briefings on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. as needed. Recordings available. Contact anna.anttila@co.itasca.mn.us for more information.

Media Contacts

Please contact each organization individually or Itasca County staff: Kelly Chandler (218-327-6144 and kelly.chandler@co.itasca.mn.us) or Anna Anttila (anna.anttila@co.itasca.mn.us).