



ITASCA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ITASCA RESOURCE CENTER

1209 SE 2nd Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744-3983
Hearing Impaired Number TDD: 218-327-5549
(218) 327-2941

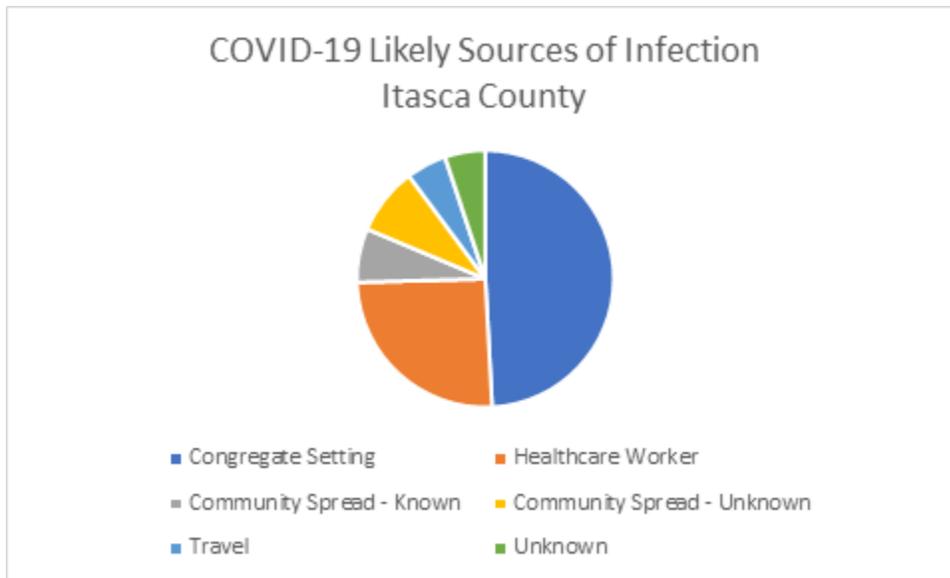
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AREA COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO ADVANCE

(Grand Rapids, Minn., **June 15, 2020**) – Itasca County saw two more laboratory-confirmed positive tests of COVID over the weekend, bringing the number of residents affected here to 60, according to Itasca County Public Health Department Manager Kelly Chandler. No additional deaths of Itasca residents have been attributed to COVID-19, leaving that total at 12.

Itasca County area cases have a range of sources as of June 15: travel, congregate settings, community spread, healthcare workers and some that are unknown.



As communities in Minnesota increasingly open as part of the state’s Phase Three recovery, the Centers for Disease Control issued updated advice on June 12 for individuals venturing out. In general, the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. So, think about:

- How many *people* will you interact with?



- Interacting with *more people* raises your risk.
- Being in a group with people who aren't social distancing or wearing [cloth face coverings](#) increases your risk.
- Engaging with new people (e.g., those who don't live with you) also raises your risk.
- Some people have the virus and don't have any symptoms, and it is not yet known how often people without symptoms can transmit the virus to others.
- Can you keep 6 feet of *space* between you and others? Will you be outdoors or indoors?
 - The *closer* you are to other people who may be infected, the greater your risk of getting sick.
 - Keeping distance from other people is especially important for people who are at [higher risk for severe illness](#), such as older adults and those with underlying medical conditions.
 - Indoor spaces are more risky than outdoor spaces where it might be harder to keep people apart and there's less ventilation.
- What's the length of *time* that you will be interacting with people?
 - Spending *more time* with people who may be infected increases your risk of becoming infected.
 - Spending more time with people increases *their* risk of becoming infected if there is any chance that you may already be infected.

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:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/activities.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>

Note to media: Itasca County Health Department will host 30-minute press briefings on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. as needed. There will be no briefing on July 3. 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).