



ITASCA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ITASCA RESOURCE CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID CONTINUING TO RISE IN ITASCA COUNTY

Plan ahead for large events, stay home if you're sick

(Grand Rapids, Minn., **May 25, 2022**) – New cases of COVID continue to rise among Itasca County residents and, after six weeks with no COVID-related deaths, we have had another neighbor die.

The 14-day case rate per 10,000 residents now stands at 40.6, a significant rise in recent weeks from nearly none. With the additional death of a resident, Itasca County has seen a total of 147 deaths due to COVID.

“Right now, it’s important to get outside, plan ahead for large events such as graduation, and stay home when you are sick (even if you have mild symptoms),” said Kelly Chandler, Itasca County Public Health division manager.

Some recent good news: Pfizer vaccine boosters are now approved for those ages 5 to 11 through local clinics. Also, the federal “test to treat” programs, where you can get tested (or have your home test assessed) and then receive appropriate treatment is now available in our region (the closest is Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital). The “Test to Treat” location finder for additional locations is online here: <https://covid-19-test-to-treat-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com>.

COVID testing/tests and medications are widely available in the county at clinics, pharmacies and retail stores throughout Itasca County. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, if you have COVID-19 symptoms and test positive, do not wait to get treated. You must take oral COVID-19 medication within five days of your first COVID-19 symptoms.

Itasca residents with questions or concerns may leave them on the Itasca County COVID message line at 218-327-6784.

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Itasca County Public Health media contact: Kelly Chandler, 218-327-6144 and Kelly.Chandler@co.itasca.mn.us.