



# 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**

Visit us at: [www.co.itasca.mn.us](http://www.co.itasca.mn.us)

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### ITASCA CASES PASS 60 AS SECOND PHASE OF RECOVERY BEGINS

(Grand Rapids, Minn., June 2, 2020) – Minnesota entered the second phase of its Stay Safe MN plan this week, with increased openings of restaurants, bars and salons. Beginning June 1, Itasca County saw an expanded number of service options available to residents and visitors, with significant precautions in place.

At the same time, Itasca County has seen an increase to more than 60 laboratory-confirmed tests and, sadly, an additional death of a female in her 80s, bringing area deaths to 10.

“We continue to grieve with those who have lost loved ones to this virus, which fuels our commitment to keep our communities safe,” said Kelly Chandler, department manager for Itasca County Public Health. “This, on top of the unrest, uncertainty and grief in Minnesota and across the country over the past week. To move through this uncertain time and slowly return to a new normal, we need to stay connected and stay safe.”

As of June 1, the launch of Phase Two of the Stay Safe MN plan, Minnesotans have additional resources and amenities available, including: outdoor dining, personal services (including salons), campgrounds, charter boats, outdoor recreation, youth sports, places of worship. All opportunities have specific precautions attached.

“We will be able to continue to open our communities if we can commit to keeping each other safe,” said Chandler. “As we slowly gather with friends and family, please continue to use precautions including wearing a mask in public spaces, use social distancing, wash your hands with soap and water, and cover your coughs and sneezes. And, if you are experiencing symptoms or feel you have been exposed, please contact your health provider to get tested. We *can* bring back the things we love and keep each other safe.”

Itasca County Public Health has been asked what data is available regarding COVID-19 recoveries, said Chandler. “Minnesota Department of Health does not send us data related specifically to recovery, rather they look at persons no longer in need of isolation and determines this by looking at whether the person has had 10 days pass since symptom onset, has been fever free for three days without medication, and is improving without other



symptoms and no longer in need of isolation. Locally, we can look solely at test and symptom onset dates, not knowing if fever and other symptoms are improving. With that, Itasca County has seen 35 to 40 persons no longer in need of isolation.”

Itasca County’s enhanced Call Center now provides live staffing Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 218-327-6784 for those with COVID-related issues and needs.

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Helpful resources:

Minnesota Stay Safe Plan: <https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-plan.jsp>

Minnesota outdoor recreation guidelines: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/safely-opening-outdoor-recreation.html>

Guidance for Minnesota youth sports:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>

*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](mailto: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](mailto:Kelly.chandler@co.itasca.mn.us)) or Anna Anttila ([anna.anttila@co.itasca.mn.us](mailto:anna.anttila@co.itasca.mn.us)).