



ITASCA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
**ITASCA RESOURCE CENTER**  
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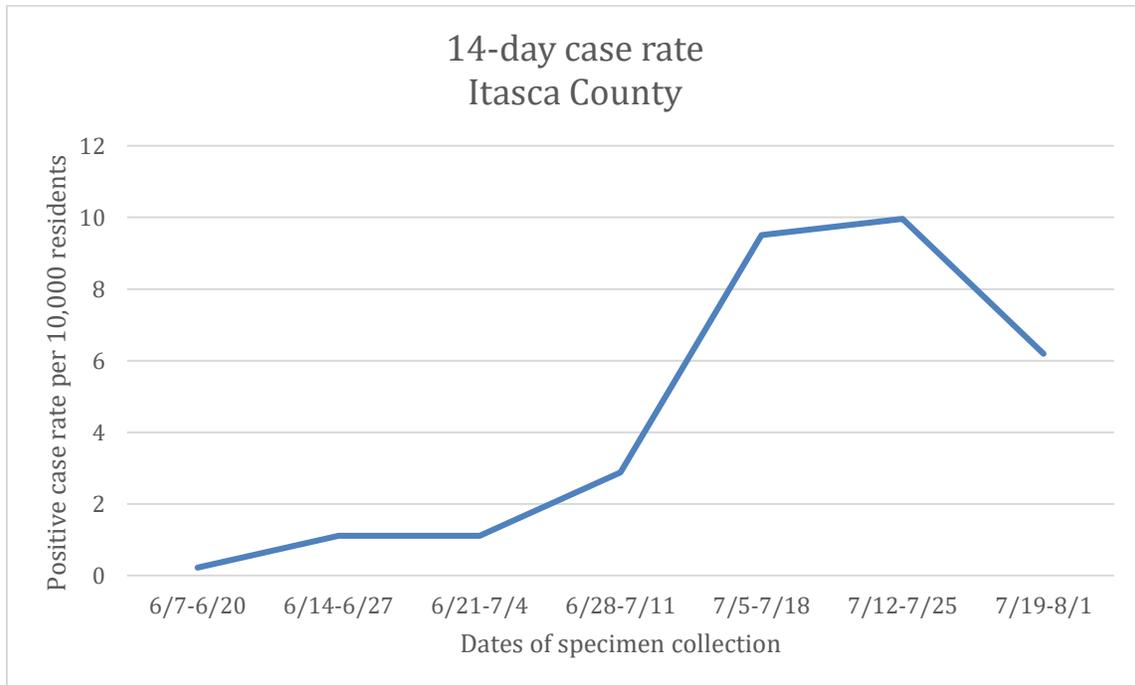
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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

ITASCA COUNTY RESIDENTS REDUCE SPREAD OF COVID-19

(Grand Rapids, Minn., **August 17, 2020**) – After a period of rising cases of Covid-19 among Itasca County residents, the region is seeing a flattening in the rate of transmission. The cumulative total of confirmed COVID-19 cases among Itasca County residents stands at 149 as of Monday, Aug. 17, an increase of three laboratory-confirmed positive cases since Aug. 8. The county has seen no additional deaths attributable to COVID.

“The current level of positive tests for Itasca residents is remaining at a level that suggests schools have the option to reopen in a face-to-face learning model,” said Kelly Chandler, Itasca County Public Health department manager.



Minnesota Department of Education has recommended policy options to schools as they consider their safe learning plans for fall, based in part on local conditions. According to Minnesota Department of Health, a case rate of 10 or more per 10,000 residents over 14 days



may be considered an elevated risk of local disease transmission, especially when the level of cases is sustained or increasing over time. As of Aug. 13, Itasca County's 14-day rate is 6.19 cases per 10,000 residents.

Questions or concerns among Itasca residents may be directed to the Itasca COVID message line, with calls returned 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday. The Itasca COVID line number is 218-327-6784.

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*Note to media: Itasca County Health Department will host 30-minute press briefings on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. as needed. The August 20 briefing will focus on preparing students, families and schools for fall. Recordings available. Contact [anna.anttila@co.itasca.mn.us](mailto:anna.anttila@co.itasca.mn.us) for more information.*

Itasca County Public Health media contacts

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