

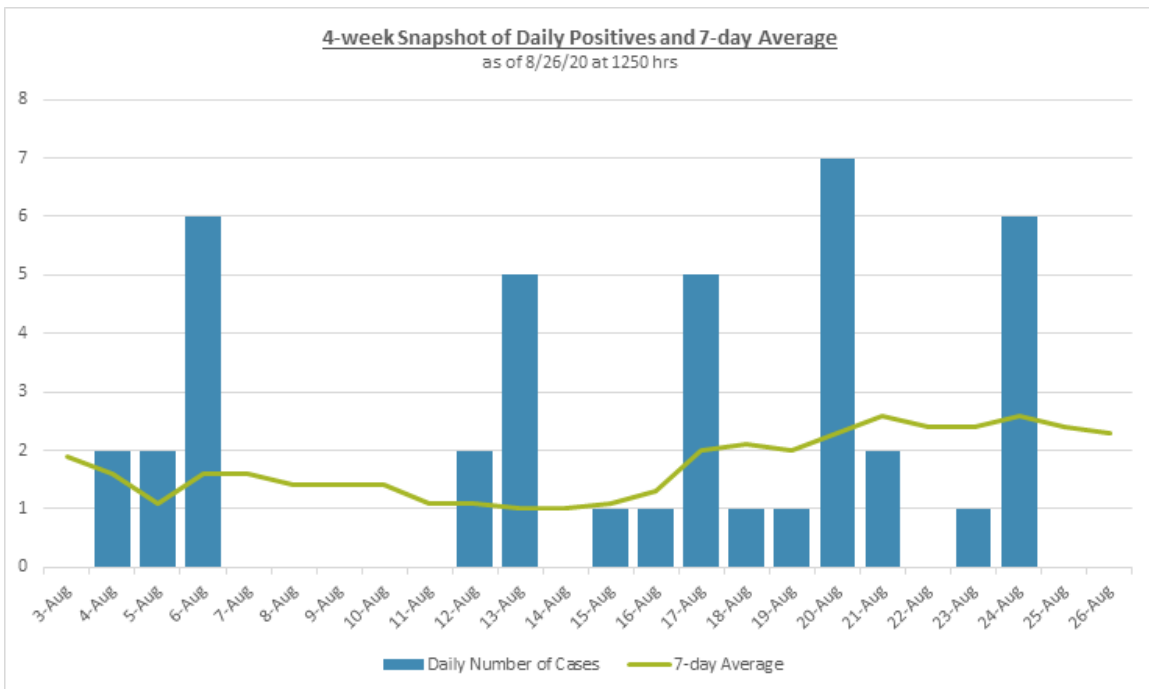
ITASCA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ITASCA RESOURCE CENTER
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Hearing Impaired Number TDD: 218-327-5549
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Visit us at: www.co.itasca.mn.us

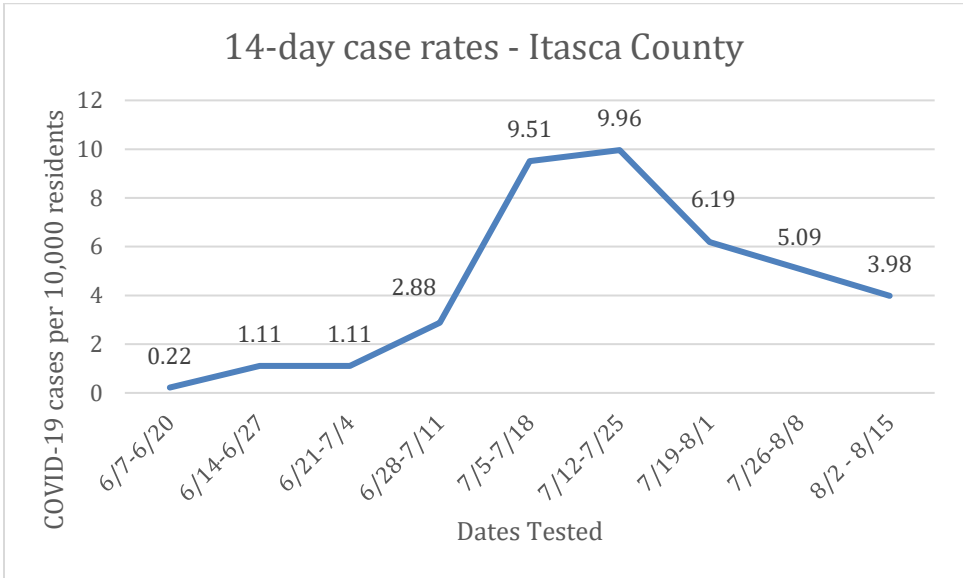
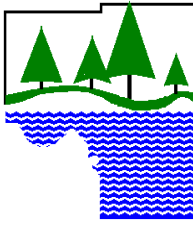
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ITASCA COVID-19 CASES SHOW SIGNS OF RISING AFTER EARLY AUGUST DOWNWARD TREND

(Grand Rapids, Minn., **August 27, 2020**) – Itasca County continues to see confirmed cases of COVID-19 among residents, with no additional related deaths. As of 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, cumulative cases in the county total 181, an increase of 27 since Aug. 20. Results of additional tests are pending.



Minnesota Department of Health also released today their 14-day average case rate for Itasca County, calculated as 3.98 for every 10,000 residents. Using data collected Aug. 2 to 15, this rate suggests an overall decline in the COVID-19 spread in the county although numbers are ticking up again, said Kelly Chandler, department manager, Itasca County Public Health.



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

“Most area schools are planning to open in the next few weeks with an in-person learning option,” said Chandler. “Families, teachers, school staff and drivers all are depending on individual residents and visitors in our county to keep our numbers down. Every safe choice helps – physical distancing, wearing masks, avoiding large crowds, monitoring for symptoms. And being very conscious of our surroundings as we go into the Labor Day holiday. Educations, livelihoods and the health of our families and friends depend on it.”

Itasca residents with questions or concerns may leave them at the Itasca County 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.

Helpful Resources

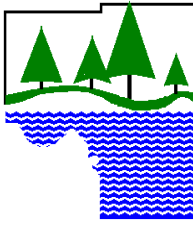
MDH exclusion guidance for youth, student, and child care programs.

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

Back to School Tips for Parents: <https://childmind.org/article/helping-children-with-special-needs-go-back-to-school/> - Child Mind Institute

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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 next briefing will be Sept. 3 and will focus on common questions and answers currently coming from the local community. Recordings available. Contact anna.anttila@co.itasca.mn.us for more information.



Itasca County Public Health media contacts

Kelly Chandler (218-327-6144 and kelly.chandler@co.itasca.mn.us) or Anna Anttila (anna.anttila@co.itasca.mn.us).

