



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

ITASCA COUNTY'S COVID TREND CONTINUES UPWARD

(Grand Rapids, Minn., Oct. 6, 2020) – No additional COVID-related deaths have been reported in Itasca County in the last several days, although 65 additional residents tested positive between Friday and Monday, Oct. 2 and 5. As of 3:00 p.m. on Oct. 5, Itasca County stands at 461 COVID-19 cases and 16 related deaths, with 107 currently known to be in isolation.

Itasca residents who have contracted COVID-19 are experiencing a variety of outcomes, according to Kelly Chandler, public health nurse and department manager for Itasca County Public Health. “Many of our neighbors, sadly, grieve for loved ones who perished due to COVID. At the other end of the infection spectrum are those without symptoms or with mild symptoms, but who are or were still contagious. In the middle are many community members who are hospitalized, some on ventilators, and still more who continue to experience difficulty in breathing, extreme exhaustion, muscle pain and other pervasive symptoms. All ages have been infected.

“COVID is incredibly real for families who have struggled through recovery and mourn lost loved ones. It’s disrupted everyone’s way of life. And we know it’s getting boosted here in Itasca County through social settings, family gatherings, in bars and restaurants, places where our guards are down. We can break the pattern by being conscious of our own choices and aware of our surroundings, especially as weather drives us indoors.”

Itasca County Public Health has received final results of the Sept. 23 drive-through testing of 907 participants conducted at the county fairgrounds. Six of the 15 positive cases identified as positive reside outside of the county and one was a repeated positive test, with the final number of Itasca residents being newly diagnosed positives in the drive-through testing as eight. These eight have been included in the current cumulative total of 461.

Other final results from the Sept. 23 drive-through testing include a 1.6 percent positivity rate (Itasca County otherwise has been at 2.5 percent of tests being positive) and, of the 907 tested, 78 were a close personal contact of a positive case and 232 had COVID-related symptoms prior to testing.

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.



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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 Oct. 15. 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).