



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

WASECA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

1000 W Elm Ave
Waseca, MN 56093
Nursing (507) 835.0685
Environmental Health (507) 835.0655
Fax (507) 835.0687

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Contact: Sarah Berry
Phone: 507-835-0656
Fax: 507-835-0687

COVID-19 in Waseca County

Today the Minnesota Department of Health Website contained an error indicating an additional laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 in Waseca County. This is a mistake. While Waseca County remains with just one laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19, we remind you that testing and confirmation of cases is now being done primarily on hospitalized and other high-priority individuals.

“It is misleading to believe we have only one person sick with COVID-19 when testing is only done on those who are most ill.” says Sarah Berry, Waseca County Public Health Director. “While reserving tests for those in the hospital is important for treating the critically ill, many only become mildly sick. Therefore, it is important to watch ourselves for fever and cough and stay home when we are sick, in case those symptoms might be caused by the COVID-19 virus.”

Commissioner of Health, Jan Malcolm, states often that community transfer of COVID-19 is happening across Minnesota. She and Governor Walz, urge us all to stay home as much as we are able to slow the spread of the virus. Berry states, “We must listen and act on the advice of CDC and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.”

Governor Walz and MDH have implemented community mitigation measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Minnesota. Slowing the spread will ease demand on the healthcare system. Waseca County Public Health officials encourage everyone to continue following the recommendations of medical experts on how best to protect themselves and contain the spread of this virus. Those recommendations include:

- Stay home if sick
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow
- Avoid touching mouth and face

In a majority of cases, COVID-19 causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. Call your health care provider if you have difficulty breathing or illness you cannot manage at home. MDH has set up a public hotline that is open 7:00am – 7:00pm. Hotline number: 651-201-3920.

The most up to date information about COVID-19 can be found on the MDH and CDC websites:

CDC website on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Minnesota Department of Health - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>