

**Subject to change as the pandemic evolves.
Revised 3/31/2020**

There has been some confusion related to the 3/27/2020 press release about the first COVID-19 case in Oconto County. Questions have been asked about releasing information to the public regarding the location of the individual who received the positive diagnosis. Oconto County Public Health understands that people would like this information so they can feel better in knowing whether their community is affected.

The following points are the rationale for why the location of the positive case is not being released publicly:

- Oconto County is very rural. Releasing the name of the community would increase the likelihood of identifying the person.
- Allowing the person to be identified (even inadvertently) could lead to personal safety and stigma issues for that person and possibly their families.
- Public Health is in touch with those in contact with the affected person according to rules established by DHS and CDC. The affected individual and their contacts as defined in the guidelines are managed by the Public Health Department so to contain the risk and reduce the spread of the virus.

A good course of action would be to assume the virus is already in your community and that anyone could be infected. Someone can have the virus and not show any symptoms. Continue to practice social distancing by following the Governor's Safer at Home order. Just because an area has a confirmed case is no reason to believe that area to be more affected by the virus than any other.

Oconto County Public Health protects all personal health information, including yours.

As COVID-19 continues to spread in the U.S. and the world, any person could become infected and get sick. Viruses are a threat to all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, or the county one lives in.

Viruses do not respect borders and do not discriminate among different types of people. It is important to continue the preventive measures such as social distancing in public and to stay safe by staying at home.

Public Health is working hard to keep up with this evolving situation and we are leveraging every possible advantage to help keep the citizens of Oconto County as safe and protected as we can. Our families and friends live here, too, and we are doing our best to support our communities as we all navigate the uncharted waters of COVID-19.