



July 9, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Susan Lorenz RN MS Health Officer

The COVID-19 Activity Level in Columbia County is High.

Please see <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>

Columbia County has experienced a significant increase in new COVID-19 cases over the past month. On 6/1/2020, Columbia County had a total of 47 positive cases. On 7/9/2020, Columbia County has a total of 110 positive cases. There were 63 new positive cases between 6/1/2020 and 7/9/2020 which accounts for 57% of our total cases since March.

Please see our Daily COVID-19 Snapshot

at: <https://www.co.columbia.wi.us/.../Cor.../tabid/9196/Default.aspx>

We are seeing the majority of those cases being transmitted from unknown sources, meaning they are not close contacts of a household member or a known case investigation – they are acquired in the general community. We are seeing our largest group of new cases in younger populations. Those aged 20-29 make up our largest single age grouping of positive cases (22%), with the age group 30-39 coming in second (20% of cases).

When someone has tested positive for coronavirus, Columbia County Public Health interviews them to ask about places they have been and who may have had close contact with them. We are in contact with them daily to monitor their symptoms and ensure they are following [isolation instructions](#).

Columbia County Public Health monitors people who may have come in contact with someone who tested positive for coronavirus. This is called contact monitoring or contact tracing. We are following standard contact investigation for any communicable disease, which includes letting them know they may have been exposed, giving them information about symptoms to watch for, and making sure they quarantine themselves if they meet certain Wisconsin Department of Health Services [criteria](#).

Our best protection against COVID-19 is to continue maintaining 6' social distance, wearing face coverings when you can't maintain that distance, avoiding large gatherings, washing hands and disinfecting surfaces regularly, and staying home when sick.

Please visit the Columbia County website at www.co.columbia.wi.us for more data and information about COVID-19.