



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 3rd, 2021

CDC Data Indicates Substantial COVID-19 Spread in Columbia County

COLUMBIA COUNTY, WI —Columbia County Public Health is issuing the following updated statement in response to the COVID-19 Delta variant and updated masking guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS):

According to the CDC data found here: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>, Columbia County is now experiencing a **substantial level** of community transmission. A county's level of transmission is based on two metrics: new Covid-19 cases per 100,000 people and the positivity rate, both measured over the last seven days.

- "Low" transmission is considered no more than 10 cases per 100,000 people, or a test positivity rate of less than 5%.
- "Moderate" transmission is 10 to 50 cases per 100,000 people, or a positivity rate between 5% and 8%.
- "Substantial" transmission is 50 to 100 cases per 100,000, or a positivity rate between 8% and 10%.
- "high" transmission is 100 or more cases per 100,000 people or a positivity rate of 10% or higher.

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at preventing severe illness that can lead to hospitalizations or death. While vaccination remains the top defense against the Delta variant, the CDC guidance recommends additional strategies that will provide additional protection against the spread of this contagious virus. Because science has shown that wearing a mask over your nose and mouth can help prevent transmission of the respiratory droplets and aerosols that spread COVID-19, wearing a mask is now recommended, regardless of vaccination status, in indoor settings.

Our goal is to reduce everyone's risk and keep people from becoming severely ill and/or hospitalized, especially for those who are unvaccinated or are immunocompromised. The best way to protect yourself, your family, and your community is by:

- Getting fully vaccinated, and we encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as they are able,
- Staying 6 feet apart from those not in your household or while in public,
- Staying home when sick,
- Cleaning and sanitizing high touch areas,
- Washing your hands often, and
- Wearing a mask, even if you are fully vaccinated.

Together, we all can help stop the spread of COVID-19 in Columbia County.

For more information please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>