



## Health and Human Services - Division of Public Health

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www.co.columbia.wi.us



Columbia County  
**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

#### Key COVID-19 Data Summary for Columbia County as of November 4th 10:00 a.m.

- Total confirmed positive test results: 2045 (+257 since 10/28/20)  
(Includes active, recovered, deceased)
- Active cases: 634 (+41 since 10/28/20)
- Total probable test results 153 (new data since 10/28/20)
- Total ever hospitalized 105 (+15 since 10/28/20)
- Individuals recovered: 1404 (+215 since 10/28/20)
- Total deaths of people confirmed positive: 7 (+0 since 10/28/20)
- Total deaths of people probable results 1 (+1 since 10/28/20)
- Total negative cases: 19945 (+671 since 10/28/20)
- Total number of active investigations by setting: 46 (+9 since 10/28/20)  
Educational facility -11; Long-term care facility -7; Workplace (non-health care) -17; Group housing facility -1; Health care facility -2; Other setting -8.
- COVID-19 Activity Level : **VERY HIGH** (Same as 10/28/20)

#### Frequently Asked Questions

##### ***What age groups in Columbia County are testing positive for COVID-19?***

As of 11/4/2020 at 10:00 a.m., the 2045 persons testing positive per age group were:

0-9 years old - 61 persons (3.0%)	50-59 years old – 368 persons (18.0%)
10-19 years old – 217persons (10.6%)	60-69 years old – 205 persons (10.0%)
20-29 years old – 368 persons (18.0%)	70-79 years old – 129 persons (6.3%)
30-39 years old – 317 persons (15.5%)	80-89 years old – 46 persons (2.2%)
40-49 years old – 318 persons (15.6%)	90 plus years old – 16 persons (0.8%)

**NOTE:** Two new lines were added this week showing the number of probable positive cases and COVID-19 associated deaths among probable cases of COVID-19. A probable case is defined as: Meeting clinic criteria AND epidemiologic evidence with no confirmatory lab testing performed (i.e., no COVID-19 PCR or NAAT performed) OR presumptive laboratory evidence OR meets vital records criteria.

***Mission Statement: To promote and protect the health and safety of our community.***



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### ***Has the very steep surge in positive cases in October caused changes in contact tracing?***

Yes. Columbia County has seen a very steep surge of COVID-19 confirmed positive cases in October.

***Columbia County had 1,104 new confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 from October 1, 2020 thru October 31, 2020 compared to 489 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 from September 1, 2020 thru September 30, 2020. Columbia County had a daily average of 36 new confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in October compared to a daily average of 16 new confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in September. Columbia County is experiencing very significant community spread of COVID-19.***

Our local public health system is beyond capacity to respond to each person newly diagnosed with COVID-19 within 24 hours. Columbia County Health Department has reached a crucial point in this pandemic and we are now using Wisconsin Department of Health Services Crisis Standards for Contact Tracing, which allows for County Health Departments to prioritize need. The prioritized need has been determined to contact those with COVID-19 and recommend these individuals isolate themselves if they test positive and notify their close contacts to quarantine. We will continue to utilize our best efforts to reach out to those diagnosed with COVID-19 within 24 hours, but please note that not everyone will be contacted within that period of time. We continue to work 7 days per week to contact positive cases.

As Columbia County Health Department continues to strive to meet expectations, we will continue to follow-up with individuals who test positive and educate them on isolation protocols, but the response will be delayed. If you tested positive, please separate yourself from others and alert anyone you may have had close contact within the two days prior to you becoming ill.

**Please visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02627.pdf> for isolation recommendations.**

Close contacts are defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of a positive case for at least 15 cumulative minutes, or had a direct contact (such as a handshake, hug, or sitting next to a person). Those that are identified as a close contact are asked to self-quarantine at home for a period of 14 days from their last contact with the infected person, monitor for symptoms, and limit contact with others as much as possible.

**Please visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02598a.pdf> for close contact recommendations.**

Businesses are encouraged to initiate contact tracing when they learn an employee has tested positive.

The community is encouraged to continue to do what they need to do to protect themselves and others – wash your hands, watch your distance, wear a face covering and stay home if you are ill or were a contact of someone who was.

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### ***When and where are the FREE COVID-19 testing sites in Columbia County?***

**Friday, November 5, 2020** between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Cambria Fire Department 702 Elizabeth Street **Cambria**, WI.

**Tuesday, November 10, 2020** between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Columbus Community Center located at 161 N. Dickason Blvd., **Columbus**, WI.

**Friday, November 20, 2020** between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Cambria Fire Department 702 Elizabeth Street **Cambria**, WI.

**Wednesday, November 25, 2020** between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 pm at the City of Portage Utility building 135 Northridge Drive **Portage**, WI. Please do not enter front door or contact Utility Staff at Portage Utility Building for COVID-19 testing. This is a drive-thru testing site only.

**Friday, December 4, 2020** between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Cambria Fire Department 702 Elizabeth Street **Cambria**, WI.

All of the above FREE COVID-19 testing sites are open to the community and appointments are NOT necessary. In an effort to save time, we encourage online registration. If you do not register online, you will still be tested. Staff on site will assist in the registration process. Registration should be done no sooner than 24 hours prior to the event at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov/en-US/>

Due to the unknown amount of interest, prepare for potential wait times. It is requested that vehicles form a line and stay in the mode of transportation at all times. No restroom facilities will be available on site, please plan accordingly.

The National Guard will be doing the testing, they will be in uniform and full personal protective equipment. Individuals will be contacted with their results within 3-7 business days.

Please visit our Columbia County website

<https://www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/hhs/HealthHumanService/PublicHealth/Coronaviruses/tabid/9196/Default.aspx> for more information.

### ***Where else can I get tested for COVID-19?***

In Columbia County, testing for COVID-19 is provided at **Aspirus Divine Savior Healthcare** in Portage and **Prairie Ridge Health** in Columbus. For a complete listing of COVID-19 Community Testing Sites, please visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community-testing.htm> .

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