



# Grant County Emergency Operations Center COVID-19 Response

## Public Information Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### GRANT COUNTY, WI COVID-19 UPDATE #1

*Lancaster, WI-* Grant County is actively continuing to prepare for the COVID-19 virus. As of 4:00 pm on March 20, 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Grant County. Testing is ongoing and currently not recommended for people with mild, upper respiratory symptoms, or those with mild illnesses for which they would not normally seek medical care. It is recommended that these residents self-isolate at home until symptoms improve.

One area of concern that must be addressed is the lack of social distancing by some individuals. It is extremely important to prevent the spread of this virus! Many people are not taking this seriously and it has created much concern for officials working to limit the spread. Residents should stay at home unless travel is urgent. This does not mean you can't go outside of your home and enjoy your yards and patios. This means that you limit your exposure to the virus by staying away from other people. In addition, it is recommended that voters sign up for absentee ballots for the April 7 Spring Election and Presidential Primary. Request an absentee ballot at <https://myvote.wi.gov>

Grant County is committed to protecting the health and well-being of our citizens and understands your concerns and uncertainty as we face the COVID-19 virus together. Our offices remain open and staffed, but ask that you call before you come to conduct your business.

#### **Grant County Department Updates:**

**Grant County Health Department** continues to lead the efforts to keep the public safe. The office remains open and staffed. WIC staff is ensuring benefits, taking new clients but has stopped all in-person visits using telephone conversations where need. Home Health Care and Hospice staff is conducting business as usual and is educating patients and families in regards to visits.

**Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)** Entry to the ADRC office is restricted. If you have questions regarding ADRC services or if you were planning to visit the office, please call 608-723-6113 or 1-800-514-0066 to receive assistance over the phone or set up an appointment. Home delivered meals will continue until further notice. All transportation services are being provided depending on driver availability.

**Grant County Veteran's Service Office** will not be taking in-person office visits. Claims will be processed using the telephone or the postal service. 608-723-2756

**Grant County Register of Deeds** office is still open for birth and marriage certificates. Best practice is to call ahead before visiting. 608-723-2727

**Grant County Department of Social Services** office is still open. Many questions can be answered via telephone contact at 608-723-2136. Some services must be provided face-to-face and it is requested that residents phone ahead to set up an appointment.

**DATCP** has been authorized to enforce Wisconsin's price gouging statute until the emergency has ended. If you receive any constituent contacts related to suspected scams, fraud, false marketing claims, price gouging or other consumer complaints related to COVID-19, please refer those contacts to DATCP's Consumer Protection Hotline at [DATCPHotline@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPHotline@wisconsin.gov) or (800) 422-7128, or have them file an [online complaint](#).

**Rumors to be addressed Per Jeff Kindrai, Grant County Health Officer:**

**Can a person be infected with COVID-19 once, recover and then be infected again?** Answer: At this point, this is an unknown. Generally, some protection is gained from a natural infection. However, if that occurs and how long that may last is unknown for COVID 19.

**Has the health department begun any type of calling of contacts who many have been in close contact with someone who is suspected of having the virus....was told last night that a friend received a call from the "health department" asking about her health.** Answer: There is a possibility that the Grant County Health Department will be calling if you are exposed to a person considered higher risk. Most calls will be related to known cases and contact to known cases. The Health Department may be using cellular phones to call you and will leave a message if you do not answer. If you receive this type of call, you should ask for the person's name and a telephone number to verify the information. In general, they will be providing information and instruction, not asking you for anything such as financial information or for payments. The number you should call is 608-723-6416 to verify that this person is who they say they are. Unfortunately scams are popping up and it is important to confirm who you are giving information to.

**The COVID-19 test is only 75% accurate.** Answer: There are a lot of variables that go with testing for suspected cases of COVID-19. Some of those things include at what point a person is tested after first suspecting illness. It also can depend on how the sample is collected, what type of sample is taken and the lab processing the test. Again, there are a lot of unknowns at this point. If you have questions, contact the Grant County Health Department at 608-723-6416.

**Are the highways coming into Grant County shut down?** Per David Lambert, Grant County Highway Commissioner, there have been no orders to shut down the highways.

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