

Weekly Video Update

Mayor Dan Toland, City of River Falls

Aug. 4, 2020

Hi, Mayor Dan here with another weekly video update. I hope you had an enjoyable weekend and were able to spend some relaxing time with family and friends.

Last week was a busy one, I will attempt to be brief while I share the highlights.

First, let's get caught up on the COVID-19 numbers ...

Slide 1 shows what is happening in Pierce County. Currently, there are 22 active cases, an increase of one since last week, for a total of 179. The county's activity level is high.

Pierce County	July 27	Aug. 3	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	153	179	+26
Active cases	21	22	+1
Recovered cases	132	157	+29
Negative cases	4,135	4,827	+692
Deaths	0	0	No change
Activity level	High	High	No change

In slide two, you will see that St. Croix County has 147 active cases, an increase of three since last week for a total of 460 cases. Their activity level is also high.

St. Croix County	July 27	Aug. 3	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	407	460	53
Active cases	144	147	+3
Recovered cases	260	309	+49
Negative cases	9,467	10,215	+748
Deaths	3	4	+1
Activity level	High	High	No change

On slide three, you will see that there were over 9,860 active cases in the state yesterday, a decrease of seven since last week. Deaths this past week totaled 949.

State of Wisconsin	July 27	Aug. 3	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	49,417	55,328	+5,911
Active cases	9,873	9,866	-7
Recovered cases	38,633	44,495	+5,862
Negative cases	823,905	911,435	+87,530
Deaths	893	949	+56

On slide four, I want to share some of our local and regional criteria for moving to the next phase of our recovery plan.

Local/regional	July 27	Aug. 3
Adequate PPE supplies for staff	Yes	Yes
City/regional testing capacity	Yes	Yes
Case contact within 24 hours (Pierce County)	Yes	Yes
Close contact tracing within 24 hours (Pierce County)	Yes	Yes
Immediate bed availability (Northwest Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition)	34%	35%

This last figure represents the percentage of beds available to treat COVID patients in the 15-county region of northwest Wisconsin. You can see that this percentage has remained steady.

On Thursday, our Governor issued an Executive Order declaring a public health emergency requiring face coverings statewide. It went into effect last Saturday and will expire on Sept. 28th.

Under this order, Wisconsin residents ages five and older are required to wear a face covering when they are indoors or in an enclosed space with anyone outside their household or living unit.

County health departments will be the primary enforcers of the Governor's new order. River Falls police officers will continue to have discretion when responding to situations around masking where there is a gross disturbance of the peace or trespassing. This approach is consistent with guidance provided to Police Chief Gordon Young, as well as through the Wisconsin Department of Justice and the Wisconsin Attorney General's office.

So, I am asking the community not to call 9-1-1 to report people not following the masking order. Please direct your questions, complaints and/or concerns to

our county health departments. Their contact information can be found at the website on your screen.

The goal of the Governor's order is to increase the use of face coverings in River Falls. We think that education and understanding are the best ways to achieve this, not through punishment or shaming.

Also, remember that some residents may be exempted from wearing masks for several different reasons. You can learn about these exemptions in the resolution, which you can find at the webpage on your screen. I encourage everyone to wear a mask if possible, it is still the easiest way to help in this fight.

Please remember to treat one another with kindness, respect, and compassion as we continue to work our way through this – together is always easier.

The River Falls School District and UWRF have been busy creating reentry plans for the fall semester. Links to both plans are available at the City's COVID-19 webpage below.

On Monday, July 27, the River Falls Board of Education approved the HYBRID B: "Cohort" Learning Environment, as the initial plan for returning to school for the 2020-2021 school year.

A district task force took into consideration feedback from parents, staff, and students and relied heavily on professional health and educational organizations in recommending option to the school board.

Students in grades 7th-12th will engage in the hybrid model of in-person and online learning. Students in grades K-6th will attend school five days a week.

The district has put in place a host of COVID-mitigation efforts to keep students, teachers, and administrators safe while at school. For families who are not comfortable sending their student to school, or have a student with medical restrictions, the district is offering a separate "Virtual/e-School" option.

The hybrid decision is currently a "short-term" plan that remains fluid and is subject to change.

UW-River Falls is preparing to welcome students back to campus for fall semester. With health and safety in mind, students will be *required* to wear face coverings indoors, and outdoors if they cannot maintain appropriate distancing

requirements. Courses are being offered in three different formats: In person, online or hybrid, which is a mix of in person and online. Class begin September 2.

Now, I want to share a few updates:

If you haven't seen the first edition of the City's new online newsletter, called e-Source, I would highly recommend it. There is a lot of information and resources that I think you may find helpful. You can find a link to the newsletter at the webpage below. While you're there, you can also sign up to receive future newsletters in your email inbox.

Also on the webpage below is a link to an important community survey that I hope you will all take. The deadline to complete the survey is tomorrow at 5 p.m. The results will help us understand how you are dealing with the pandemic and how we can help.

The Aug. 11 Partisan Primary is next Tuesday. If you were planning to request a ballot online, you'll need to do that at myvote.wi.gov by **this Thursday at 5 p.m.**

If you have completed your ballot, but not yet mailed it in, you should do that soon, as it must be received at City Hall by 8 p.m. on Election Day, next Tuesday Aug. 11th. The same is true for ballots you put in the City's drop boxes.

If you are planning to vote "in-person" absentee, you can do that at City Hall through this Friday the 7th.

On Election Day, please remember to bring your mask, use hand sanitizer, and stay six feet away from fellow voters and poll workers.

if you have any election questions, please call City Hall at 715-425-0900. Our staff are always happy to help.

See you next week. In the meantime, if you have questions or comments, please send them to me at dtoland@rfcity.org.