



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in Eau Claire County

Eau Claire, WI – March 19, 2020 9:35 AM – Today the Eau Claire City-County Health Department and Wisconsin Department of Health Services confirmed the first case of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in Eau Claire County. This was an individual who traveled outside of Wisconsin and likely had exposure in another state. We understand that they have remained at home self-quarantined since that travel. We are working with the individual to identify anyone who may have had close contact with the person and quarantining those individuals for the next 14 days. We are following CDC and State Health Department directions. The health and safety of all residents in our community is our primary goal.

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department and multiple community partners continue to follow the COVID-19 situation as it develops. As of March 18th, there were 106 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wisconsin. Here is what the public needs to know:

- As the Health Department learns of any individuals who have been in contact with a person who is sick with COVID-19, we are contacting those individuals to stay at home and monitor their health.
- When people have been in contact with someone who is sick with COVID-19, they are asked to stay at home for 2 weeks to monitor for symptoms. This is called quarantine. This **does not** mean that these people are ill. It helps to prevent the possibility of spread by limiting the number of people they are in contact with *in case* they get sick.

Everyone can help prevent the spread of illness in our community with a few simple, but effective action

- Practice good social distancing:
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick, stay home if you are feeling sick, and don't get together in groups larger than 10 people.
 - Limit in-person contact and maintain distance of 6 feet between others and you.
- Practice good personal hygiene:
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or blowing your nose
 - Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, then wash your hands.
 - Use hand sanitizer if you do not have soap and water readily available.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Be prepared with only a 2 week supply of food and medicine. This is only in case you were to be notified that you came in contact with a positive case and needed to self-quarantine.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily including tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, remotes, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- Limit non-essential travel.
- Call your health care provider if you have any questions about your health.

Please know that the health and safety of all community members remains our highest priority.

You can stay up to date with the latest information on the Health Department website coronavirus.ehealthdepartment.org, Facebook ([@eauclairehealthdept](https://www.facebook.com/eauclairehealthdept)), or Twitter [@ehealthdept](https://twitter.com/ehealthdept). If you have questions, email us at ehealth@co.eau-claire.wi.us, or call the COVID-19 phone line at 715-839-4725.

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Promoting health and safety for all Eau Claire communities