



## Dunn County Health Department

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Health Alert – COVID-19 & Extra-Curricular Events November 9, 2020

In the last month, all of Wisconsin has seen a significant surge in COVID-19 cases. The state surpassed 200,000 cases in late October. It took Wisconsin nearly 8 months to get to 100,000 cases. It took 36 days to get to 200,000 cases. This has impacted hospitals in Wisconsin and Minnesota, in addition to local public health. Many Local Public Health Agencies, Dunn County included, have had to enter into crisis standards of practice due to the overwhelming number of cases identified on a daily basis. This means that Local Public Health is not able to contact trace and our ability to identify opportunities to stop future spread of COVID-19 is compromised.

In Dunn County there have been 498 COVID-19 new cases in the last ten days; 30% of our total cases are active and currently infectious. Our caseload and that of surrounding counties impacts our community and schools. Several schools in the Western region have recently transitioned to virtual instruction because of outbreaks and staffing shortages.

Any time that people have direct contact or are in close contact with one another there is an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission. Currently, Dunn County, along with many other counties in the Western region, are recommending events that bring people in close contact do not occur. This includes any sport that brings non-household members in close contact with one another, non-school sponsored sports, and any other event that brings people in close contact with one another.

COVID-19 transmission in our schools does not stay in our schools. It is easily spread in the community. Actions that are taken today will impact our tomorrow. We all can be part of the solution by not allowing events that bring people together and reinforcing mitigation practices. We urge local school districts to identify activities for students that promote physical activity, leadership skills and teamwork without bringing non-household members into close contact with each other.

The Dunn County Health Department greatly appreciates the partnership with our schools. Thank you for all the actions you have already taken to mitigate risks for your students and our community. Together we will continue to prioritize education for the students of Dunn County.