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Buffalo County Health Department

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

07/14/2020

From: April Loeffler, Health Officer/Public Health Supervisor

Buffalo County Strongly Encourages Citizens to Consider Risk Before Hosting or Attending Gatherings

Alma, WI-7/14/20—Many people have been gathering with their friends and families to celebrate holidays and enjoy summer activities. As a result, we are seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases in Buffalo County and surrounding areas. The more people an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of becoming infected with and spreading COVID-19. We need to make sure we are doing our best to slow the spread. Buffalo County Public Health highly recommends staying home as much as possible for 14 days following any gatherings where social distancing and safe practices were not able to be maintained to reduce spread.

Buffalo County Public Health has identified locations where there are potential known exposures to COVID-19. Anyone who was at a place on the days listed AND is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their provider to be tested.

Days and places of potential exposures include:

River Ratz Saloon in Buffalo City: 7/4/20 & 7/5/20

The Lost Pirate Tiki Bar & Grill in Buffalo City: 7/4/20

Great River Harbor (bar/restaurant only): 7/4/20 & 7/5/20

Great River Lodge: 7/4/20 & 7/5/20

Any gathering in the last 14 days where people were unable to maintain social distance

If you visited these places during these times and are experiencing symptoms, please call your health care provider to get tested for COVID-19 out of an abundance of caution.

*COVID-19 symptoms include cough, fever, sore throat, headache, body or muscle aches, chills, fatigue, vomiting, or new loss of taste or smell.

The Health Department will continue to alert the public via social media (Facebook) and a press release when there has been potential exposure of close contacts who are within 6ft for 15 minutes of a confirmed case and the potentially exposed individuals are not able to be identified/contacted.

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

- Stay home if you are sick.
- 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, eating, or drinking.
 - 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.
- While in public, keep six feet between you and people who don't live in your home. Avoid gathering with people not in your household. Wear a cloth face covering when physical distance is hard to maintain.
- Call your health care provider if you have any questions about your health.
- If you have been exposed to COVID-19, stay home and contact your local health department.

Please note that an establishment appearing on this list does not mean they did something wrong nor does appearing on this list mean that the establishment should be closed. Public health has contacted establishments and guidance was provided about cleaning and practices to reduce future risk to staff and customers.

You can stay up to date with the latest information from the Buffalo County DHHS Facebook Page <https://www.buffalocounty.com/483/COVID-19-Coronavirus>, or the Buffalo County website, <https://www.buffalocounty.com/483/COVID-19-Coronavirus>.