



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY OF WAUPUN CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Waupun, Wis. – On Thursday, March 19, 2020, city leadership was made aware of a confirmed Coronavirus (COVID-19) case of a staff member at Waupun Correctional Institution. The City of Waupun has been in contact with State Representative Michael Schraa, Waupun Correctional leadership, and Fond du Lac and Dodge County public health officials to understand the potential impact on our community. The Department of Corrections (DOC) has informed city officials that they are working through recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on protocol for their staff and inmates.

As a department within the state of Wisconsin, the DOC operates independently from Waupun city government. However, city staff routinely meet with DOC officials and other community partners to discuss current conditions and needs across the community. COVID-19 was a recent topic at a community relations meeting and DOC officials assured city staff that proper protocols were in place. Public health officials assured city leaders that the risk of getting COVID-19 in the U.S. remains low.

Mayor Julie Nickel said, “Our primary concern is for the safety and well-being of residents and staff, many who live within our community.” Nickel added, “It is important to note that this is a single case that was confirmed. The DOC assures us that they are taking proper precautions to monitor the situation and we are engaged with public health officials to ensure the ongoing safety of our community. The City of Waupun takes the COVID-19 threat very seriously and city staff have been meeting for several weeks to develop safety protocols and to share information with the public.” The release of this information places a critical emphasis on the information that has been widely shared through the Fond du Lac and Dodge County Health Departments, the WI Department of Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including:

- 1) Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water isn’t available.
- 2) Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- 3) Practice social distancing. When possible, maintain a 6-foot distance between you and others.
- 4) Stay home when you are sick.
- 5) Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- 6) Clean/sanitize surfaces and objects that people frequently touch.

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, which include a fever, cough or difficulty breathing, you are advised to call one of the following county health resources. Please do not go to your local healthcare facility before contacting the appropriate number below.

- Dodge County residents should call 877-998-0022. A medical professional will conduct an over-the-phone screening to determine if a COVID-19 test is appropriate.

- Fond du Lac County residents should call 844-225-0147 from 7am-5pm for more direction from health officials before going to a healthcare facility.

City of Waupun staff will continue to monitor the situation and will provide regular updates to our community to promote public health and welfare.

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