

North Office

3328 U.S. Hwy 51 N
Janesville, WI 53545-0772
Mailing Address:
PO Box 1088
Janesville, WI 53547-1088

608-757-5440
608-758-8423 (fax)



Public Health

www.co.rock.wi.us/publichealth

South Office

61 Eclipse Center
Beloit, WI 53511

608-364-2010
608-364-2011 (fax)

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

To: Local Media
From: Katrina Harwood, Health Officer
Date: June 17, 2022

Rock County Back to Low COVID-19 Community Levels

Residents encouraged to take actions to keep levels low

Rock County, WI – Decreased COVID-19 activity and hospitalizations have moved Rock County from “high” to “low” COVID-19 community levels this week, according to criteria set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Rock County Public Health Department encourages residents to continue to take simple actions that can protect health in Rock County.

While the virus that causes COVID-19 continues to circulate throughout Wisconsin, Rock County’s Community Level may change rapidly as we saw these past two weeks. Rock County Public Health Department will continue to monitor the Community Level and alert the public if it begins to see any prolonged trends that could significantly impact Rock County hospitals or the health of Rock County residents. Rock County residents are encouraged to continue to assess individual risks and take actions to protect their health and the health of those around them. Residents can stay informed about Rock County’s COVID-19 Community Level by visiting, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>.

Rock County Public Health Department encourages all residents to continue to use layered prevention strategies to stay protected against COVID-19. In addition to staying up to date with [COVID-19 vaccines](#), Rock County residents should:

- Get [tested](#) for COVID-19 if you have symptoms or were exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Stay home when you are sick and seek treatment if you are at high risk or experiencing severe illness.

Although a low COVID-19 Community Level does not indicate a need for masking in indoor public settings per the guidance set forward by CDC, individuals may choose to wear one to

further reduce their risk. Some community settings may still require them. These include health care settings, nursing homes, adult care, correctional facilities, and homeless and domestic violence shelters. Local businesses, transportation hubs, and transit may also require masks if they choose.

Continuing to follow guidance associated with COVID-19 Community Levels can help residents plan prevention strategies to feel safer in Rock County, protect people who are more at risk for serious illness, and reduce strain on local hospitals.

The CDC determines the [COVID-19 Community Level](#) based on a combination of metrics that include new cases and new COVID-19 hospital admissions. It evaluates new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days, the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, and total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days to determine the COVID-19 community level. New COVID-19 admissions and the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied represent the current potential for strain on the health system. Data on new cases acts as an early warning indicator of potential increases in health system strain in the event of a COVID-19 surge.

###

Rock County Public Health Department serves Rock County residents by collaborating with partners to ensure a healthy, thriving Rock County. For the latest information about COVID-19 in Rock County, visit the Rock County Public Health Department website at www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/public-health and follow them on social media @rockcountyphd.

Please send all media inquiries to Media.PublicHealth@co.rock.wi.us.