

**BROWN COUNTY
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

**DE PERE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**ONEIDA COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER**

Public Health Division
Ann Steinberger, RN, BSN
Acting Public Health Officer
(920) 448-6445

De Pere Health Department
Debbie Armbruster, RN, BSN
Health Officer/Director
(920) 339-4054

Oneida Community Health Services
Michelle Myers, RN, BSN
Interim Public Health Officer
(920) 869-4840

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday 3/18/2020

CONTACT: Ted Shove, BC_Health@browncountywi.gov, 920-448-6400

COVID-19 Update *Confirmed Case in Brown County*

BROWN COUNTY, WI — Brown County Public Health, De Pere Health Department and Oneida Community Health Services announced today that there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Brown County. This will be our first confirmed case of COVID-19 in our area. This individual traveled domestically and developed symptoms. The individual has remained under self-quarantine as requested by local, state, and federal recommendations.

"We have been jointly preparing and anticipating a confirmed case in Brown County. We will work closely with Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to ensure we are taking the appropriate next steps to ensure our community is safe and well," said Ann Steinberger, acting Brown County Public Health Officer.

Our joint health departments, DHS and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) responsibilities include:

- Identifying and contacting anyone who has been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19. These people are asked to quarantine themselves for 14 days from their exposure and will be monitored for fever and respiratory symptoms. People who develop symptoms will be tested for COVID-19.
- Providing guidance to clinicians regarding testing.
- Preparing Brown County for community spread of COVID-19.

Our health departments are keeping track of this outbreak. If someone has been exposed, Public Health will directly contact that individual. We are working with our local, state, and federal partners to act quickly and effectively when we identify individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been around people who have been infected with COVID-19.

Michelle Myers, Interim Public Health Office for Oneida Nation, reiterated how crucial it is, now more than ever, to practice social distancing, "Every person in our community plays a role in stopping the spread of COVID-19. We are all responsible as residents of our respective communities to monitor our own health and act accordingly."

The health departments want everyone to know that while the risk of getting the illness remains low, people should follow simple steps to avoid getting sick, including:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Stay home when sick.
- Practice social distancing
- Avoid large public gatherings and crowds.

"We are all prepared to deal with an increased number of cases. We will continue to work with DHS, the CDC, and our local partners to make sure our community remains safe and healthy," said Debbie Armbruster De Pere Health Officer.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. For the latest information, visit the [CDC's website](#) or the [DHS website](#).

For the latest information about COVID-19 in Brown County, visit: www.stayhealthyBC.com

(END)