

Keep yourself and your loved ones safe and healthy.

- Wash your hands.
- Wear a face mask in public.
- Practice social distancing.
- Avoid large gatherings.

Dear Residents of the Chequamegon Bay Region,

A recent event hosted in Ashland has resulted in a significant rise in COVID-19 cases.

Thirteen cases of COVID-19 are attributed to this event across the tri-state area with more tests pending. Cases are confirmed in both children and adults. This number is anticipated to grow as test results are confirmed.

Ripple effects of this event have spread across the community.

Public Health: In order to fulfill the contact tracing requirements related to this event, the Public Health Departments in Ashland and Bayfield County are working above capacity. The amount of contact tracing for this single event is enormous. Time spent on contact tracing detracts from time spent on prevention efforts that are an essential part of pandemic response.

Businesses: Multiple businesses in the area are temporarily closed, or have suspended operations based on potential staff exposure to COVID-19 due to this single event. These closures have a significant impact on the reputation and economic viability of a business, and the health and financial well-being of staff members that rely on these businesses.

Medical facilities: Local medical providers are experiencing a high volume of testing requests related to this single event, putting significant pressure on limited supply. Simultaneously, many staff members are required to quarantine based on potential exposure, resulting in decreased capacity of medical partners to respond to COVID and non-COVID cases.

This information is shared to inform local residents about the effects that one event can have on our community.

Over the course of the last four months, public health representatives from Ashland, Bayfield County and Iron Counties together with the Bad River and Red Cliff Tribes and Memorial Medical Center have worked together to increase the regional response capacity to COVID-19. While great strides are being made, the cornerstone of an effective COVID-19 response relies on the willingness of residents to comply with public health recommendations.

In the best interests of community health and well-being, it is critical that local residents and visitors to the region adhere to best practices in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.

- Limit unnecessary contact with people outside of your household.
- Wear a mask at all times when in contact with people outside your household.
- Maintain at least six feet of distance in any public setting.
- Do not attend or host large group gatherings.

Thank you for your willingness to do your part in slowing the spread of COVID-19. The future health and safety of our community depends upon it. -Be Well!

