



Red Cliff Community Health Center

36745 Aiken Road, Bayfield, WI 54814

Phone: (715) 779-3707 Fax: (715) 779-3362

An Important Message from Red Cliff Medical Providers - Covid-19 Surge

Covid-19 infections continue to increase amongst Red Cliff community members and is widespread in the state and region. Remember, for every case which has tested positive, there are likely 4-5 undiagnosed cases, who were not yet tested. Asymptomatic spread is extremely common.

The regional hospitals are reaching their capacity. They face a complicated combination of an excess of patients, with staffing shortages due to illness or quarantine. First Responders are volunteers. Staffing shortages are chronic, but so much worse since the surge in cases locally.

The Red Cliff Community Health Center Public Health, along with the Bayfield County/Ashland County Public Health Departments have been working tremendously hard to do the complicated work of Contact Tracing, to identify Covid-19 infected patients before they spread the infection to others. Red Cliff Community Health Center has been testing dozens of patients weekly for the virus. We are doing this at the same time as we continue to provide primary medical care.

Recently, cases are springing up primarily in association with social events and family visits. Halloween parties, getting together to watch a Packers game, having grandchildren "sleep over", sharing a ride-- all have resulted in the spread of infection. Household spread is extremely common. It is simply not safe to visit or socialize indoors, with anyone other than those who live under one roof.

Secondly, too many people continue to go to work in spite of having symptoms. Covid-19 can start as mild upper respiratory symptoms, just like a common cold. No one with any symptoms of respiratory illness or fever should be going to work. Even without fever, any cough, stuffy nose, sore throat, body aches, chills, fatigue, loss of taste or smell, or even nausea, abdominal pain or diarrhea can be caused by Covid-19 infection. Please stay home and schedule a Covid-19 test.

Finally, it is not safe to eat or drink indoors anywhere other than in your own home. Masks come off to eat or drink. For now, it is not possible to eat in a restaurant or drink at a bar safely, until we get better control of the virus. Support your local restaurants with take-out orders.

Unfortunately, the riskiest activities also include shopping. For now, shopping needs to be done by younger, healthier people, so please plan ahead. Only one person from the family should go into a store. Orders can be placed with many local grocery stores, with curbside pickup requested to avoid shopping indoors.

The Red Cliff Community Health Center staff are begging everyone to stop the spread by avoiding "sharing the air!" Mask up everyone!

Caretakers of the medicine, protectors of your health

