



**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Amanda Dederich  
Health Officer  
Juneau County Health Department  
608-847-9373

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**JUNEAU COUNTY MOVES TO COVID-19 CRISIS MODEL FOR CONTACT TRACING**

*Juneau County Health Department announces move to crisis standards amid rising case counts*

**[Mauston, WI]** – As daily COVID-19 case counts continue to rise in Juneau County, the Juneau County Health Department is no longer able to effectively follow-up with everyone who has been exposed. The Department is moving to a crisis model for contact tracing starting Friday, November 6, 2020.

“The public health system in Wisconsin is severely strained and overwhelmed by the sustained surge in daily case counts,” explained Amanda Dederich, Juneau County Health Officer. “Our team can no longer notify all cases and contacts quickly enough to be effective in slowing the spread in our community.”

With the new crisis model, the Public Health Nursing Team will continue to conduct disease investigations with individuals who test positive. Public Health asks that people who test positive for COVID-19 notify their close contacts who live outside of the household. The Juneau County Emergency Information Page has been updated to provide guidelines on what you should do if you are sick or were possibly exposed. Complying with quarantine requirements is very important if you are identified as a close contact. The Department will continue to prioritize contact tracing efforts in high-risk settings including schools, long-term care facilities, and large employers.

“Our local health department has led this response successfully despite limited resources and staffing,” stated John Wenum, Juneau County Board of Health Chair. “It is unfortunate our County has exceeded a critical threshold this week and we hope these crisis standards are just temporary. It is up to all of us.”

It is important to take active measures to avoid the spread of illness in the community. People should follow simple steps to slow the spread in our community, including:

- Wear a cloth face covering when in public.
- Keep 6 ft. of distance between you and non-household members.
- Limit contact with non-household members.
- Staying home when sick.
- Frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water.
- Covering coughs and sneezes.
- Avoiding touching your face.

Go to [www.co.juneau.wi.gov/emergency-information.html](http://www.co.juneau.wi.gov/emergency-information.html) for more information regarding COVID-19 in Juneau County. Daily snapshot is updated Monday through Friday.

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