



Bayfield County Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BAYFIELD COUNTY SEES INCREASE IN COVID-19 CASES DESPITE RISING VACCINATION RATES IN COMMUNITY

Bayfield County, Wisconsin—Bayfield County Health Department reports an increase in COVID-19 cases in Bayfield County over the past two weeks. We are seeing smaller isolated clusters of new cases, particularly in Washburn, Herbster, Iron River, Bayfield, Red Cliff, and Cable. There is a noticeable increase in positive cases among children and young adults. This may be attributed to the lower vaccination rates among this population group or reduced adherence to safety precautions. Additionally, many of these new cases are related to smaller gatherings among friends and family members.

As of March 18th, Bayfield County was categorized as a “low level” for COVID-19 disease activity. Last week, we jumped to a “medium level,” and as of yesterday we have been upgraded to a “high level” of disease activity according to Wisconsin Department of Health Services. This rapid reversal in trends of new COVID-19 cases is alarming, especially in light of new COVID-19 variants spreading across the United States. ***It is not too late to make changes to reverse this undesirable trend.***

The following COVID-19 precautions are still recommended at this time:

- Wear a mask when in public settings or around non-household family members.
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from others.
- Avoid gatherings outside of your immediate family if unvaccinated against COVID-19.
- You should still watch out for [symptoms of COVID-19](#), especially if you’ve been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home away from others.
- Do not go out in public if you are not feeling well.
- Avoid visiting unvaccinated persons, or persons at an increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 if you are not feeling well, have recently traveled, or attended a gathering that includes people you do not live with.
- Avoid or delay domestic or international travel if you are unvaccinated. If you do travel, follow CDC [requirements and recommendations](#).
- Get a COVID-19 vaccine when you are offered.

You can register online interest in getting a COVID-19 vaccine at: www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/vaccine. Currently eligible groups include:

- Frontline health care personnel
- Residents and staff in skilled nursing and assisted living facilities
- Police and fire personnel, correctional staff
- Adults age 65 and older
- Educators and childcare staff
- Individuals enrolled in Medicaid long-term care programs
- Some public-facing essential workers, such as food service employees
- Non-frontline essential health care personnel
- Staff and residents in congregate living facilities
- Individuals age 16 and older with certain underlying health conditions

For more information on COVID-19 disease activity across Wisconsin or in Bayfield County, go to: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19>

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