

AROUND *The County*

COVID cases hit all-time high in Pierce

By Sarah Nigbor

According to Pierce County Public Health Officer AZ Snyder, last week's positive COVID cases were at an all-time weekly high in Pierce County.

"We had 565 cases reported to us last week," Snyder said. "Our previous high was 449 in November 2020."

Pierce County Public Health is not able to contact most people reported to them as having COVID-19.


"We are focusing on contacting people at highest risk for severe COVID-19," Snyder said. "We are asking residents who test positive to read the quarantine and isolation section of our website for guidance to figure out when it's safe for them to go back to work or school. <https://covid-piercecounty-wi.hub.arcgis.com/>

Snyder said hospital capacity in the region is still limited but is showing signs of improvement.

"However, because hospitalizations tend to lag a few weeks behind spikes of cases, it's too soon to say if hospital capacity will continue to improve," she cautioned. "We are seeing a fair number of breakthrough infections among vaccinated individuals due to the omicron variant. However, their symptoms tend to be milder and they are significantly less likely to be hospitalized."

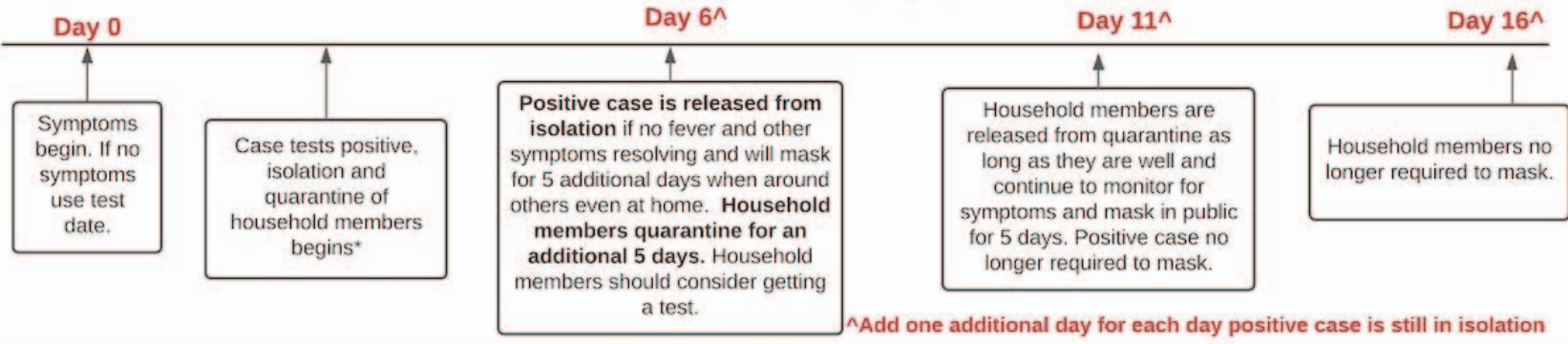
PCPH hasn't been able to keep tabs on school case numbers as much as Snyder would like, because of the huge surge in cases. Snyder said she realizes schools are facing increased staffing challenges due to illness.

"This would be a prudent time to institute mask require-



Household Quarantine and Isolation Expectations
Last Updated 1.12.2022

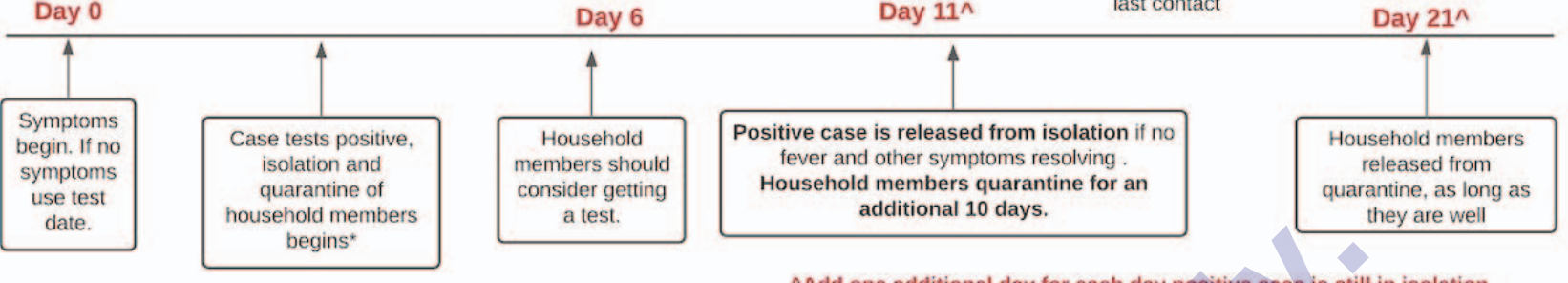
Timeline for households that agree to mask



All positive cases: At least 5 days of isolation.
Other household members: 5 days of quarantine*, assuming no other household member develops symptoms or test positive. Quarantine begins when positive case is released OR if positive is completely separated** from household members on date of last contact

*Add one additional day for each day positive case is still in isolation

Timeline for families who cannot or will not mask (Guidance applies to people under 2 years of age)



All positive cases: At least 10 days of isolation.
Other family members: 10 days of quarantine*, assuming no other household member develops symptoms or test positive. Quarantine begins when positive case is released OR if positive is completely separated** from household members on date of last contact

*Add one additional day for each day positive case is still in isolation

*You do not need to quarantine, but should wear a mask when around others for 10 days from last exposure, if:

- You are ages 12 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses including boosters. (Moderna or Pfizer: boosted or within 5 months of 2nd dose; J&J: boosted or within 2 months of dose)
- You are ages 5-11 years and have received 2 doses of Pfizer vaccine. (must be 14 days from 2nd dose)
- You had lab confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days

**Fully separated means using separate bedrooms and bathrooms and not sharing any common living spaces, like kitchens or living rooms, even at different times. The case must remain confined to a separate bathroom and bedroom in order for the case to be considered fully separated from household members.

The CDC recently revised its guidelines regarding household quarantine and isolation expectations. Timeline courtesy of PCPH

ments in schools if their boards haven't done so already," Snyder said. "It may be the difference between

staying in-person to learn and having to switch to virtual learning, which is the last thing any of us want."

PCPH and Freeman Drug in River Falls have many vaccination appointments available. Visit covid-piercecounty-wi.hub.arcgis.com to schedule.

"Boosters are essential for protecting people against

Omicron," Snyder said. "We urge everyone to get their boosters as soon as they are eligible."

COVID-19: Contacting positive cases, testing, vaccination

NEW RICHMOND — St. Croix County has reported 2,196 cases of COVID-19 within the first 13 days of 2022. As of Jan. 13, 2022, the County is averaging 197 cases per day, nearly double the highest level we have seen during this pandemic.

Due to the high volume of positive COVID-19 cases, St. Croix County Public Health may not be able to personally contact everyone who tested positive for COVID-19 by phone. St. Croix County Public Health will send automated text, phone, and email alerts to residents who tested positive and have not been contacted by Public Health. These automated alerts will have a link to more information about what to do after testing positive for COVID-19.

Automated email alerts will only be sent from covid19@sccewi.gov
Automated text or phone alerts will only be sent from 715-246-8224

A member of our Public Health Department may follow up with you using a different phone number than listed above. To avoid potential scams, please do not reply to or click links in messages that ask you for payment or financial information. Public Health will NOT ask you

for money or payment, social security, or bank account information. If you are unsure of the legitimacy of a message, please contact Public Health at the phone number or email listed above.

Public Health is prioritizing daily communication with every school district regarding positive students and staff, controlling outbreaks of the disease, and individuals at greater risk for disease.

COVID-19 testing

Public Health urges everyone who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or has been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 to get tested. Public Health is offering free COVID-19 PCR testing at the St. Croix County Services Center in New Richmond on Mondays and Wednesdays. These testing locations will be open on the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Presidents' Day holidays. Testing is available during the following times:

- Mondays: 7:30 – 11 a.m.
- Wednesdays: 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

You can find a list of testing locations on the

St. Croix County website: sccewi.gov/COVID-19-Testing

The CDC has shortened the recommended length of isolation for people with COVID-19, from 10 days to five days, if at Day 5 your COVID-19 symptoms are resolving, and you have been fever free (without meds) for 24 hours. After your five-day isolation period is over, it is important to wear a well-fitting mask around others for the next five days. If you tested positive for COVID-19 or are a close contact of someone who tested positive, follow the guidance in these resources:

- I tested positive for COVID-19: dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/diagnosed.htm
- I'm a close contact: dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/close-contacts.htm

COVID-19 vaccines

Everyone 5 years of age and older are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in Wisconsin. Public Health is currently offering free first and second doses and booster shots of the COVID-19 vaccine on Mondays at the Services Center in New Richmond from noon – 4 p.m. These

clinics are open for individuals 5 and older. You can sign up for your vaccine by following the instructions on the St. Croix County website: sccewi.gov/COVID-19-Vaccine

Where can I find more information?

Visit the St. Croix County website for more information on COVID-19, how to get your vaccine, where to get tested, current data, and more: sccewi.gov/COVID19

Please do your part to help keep your family, friends, neighbors, and community safe. St. Croix County Public Health sincerely thanks you for your participation and cooperation in controlling the spread of COVID-19. To help keep our community safe, we ask that you:

- Wear a mask
- Practice physical distancing
- Stay home when you are sick or if your children are sick, do not send them to school
- Wash your hands frequently
- Get tested if you have symptoms or are a close contact
- And get vaccinated

Submitted by St. Croix County Public Health

CAMPUS News

UW-Green Bay
GREEN BAY — The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay has made public the names of undergraduate students receiving semester honors for fall 2021 semester academic achievement.

Students who earn a 4.0 grade point average, which represents all "A" grades, receive highest honors. High honors go to students earning 3.99 to 3.75 grade point averages. Honors are given to students earning 3.74 to 3.50 grade point averages.

Andrew Swanson, Ellsworth, received Semester High Honors.

UW-Stout
MENOMONIE - The following students from the area have been named to the University of Wisconsin-Stout Dean's List for the fall 2021 semester.

The award is presented to students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

Bay City: Rachael Sullivan, senior, BFA interior design
Beldenville: Joshua Goodreid, junior, BS mechanical engineering; Marlow Sudbeck, junior, BS computer and electrical engineering
Ellsworth: Annabelle Meyer, sophomore, BS packaging
Elmwood: Anna Blanford,

freshman, BS health, wellness and fitness; Samuel Hoyt, senior, BS mechanical engineering; Tyce Todd, junior, BS technology education

Maiden Rock: Noah Gansluckner, junior, BS construction; Abbey Graham, junior, BS applied social science; Brittany Krueger, senior, BS rehabilitation services

Plum City: Owen Bartsch, sophomore, BS mechanical engineering; Abigail Hassing, senior, BS dietetics; Katherine Hassing, sophomore, BS early childhood education

Prescott: Karin Geerdes, junior, BS psychology; McKenna Johnson, sophomore, BFA graphic design and interactive media; Ryan Johnson, freshman, BS engineering technology; Jaydin Peterson, sophomore, BS psychology; Ayde Veness, freshman, BS mechanical engineering; Haylee Yaeger, junior, BS early childhood education

River Falls: Jacob Bartkey, sophomore, BS engineering technology; Cole Causby, sophomore, BS business administration; Sarah Hayman, senior, BS computer networking and information technology; Caleb Johnson, senior, BS mechanical engineering; Nathan Kinsley, sophomore, BFA graphic design and interactive media; Grant Magnuson, junior, BS business administration; Alex

Martin, sophomore, BFA graphic design and interactive media; Sy Pitzen, sophomore, BS graphic communications; Ally Pizzi, junior, BFA interior design; Jacob Richardt, freshman, BS computer science (non-degree); Carleigh Roettger, junior, BS professional communication and emerging media; Andrew Skaare, senior, BS construction; Kylee Strehlau, freshman, BS fashion and retail.

Spring Valley: Ava Bawek, freshman, BS dietetics; Sean Borgerding, senior, BS manufacturing engineering; Wylie Brooke, freshman, undeclared/undecided; Jack Brown, freshman, BS applied social science; Simon Brown, junior, BS applied social science, pre-law/pre-prof; Rachel Garin, senior, BS business administration; Michael Laffin, senior, BS computer and electrical engineering; Colten Wilson, junior, BS business administration.

Wilson: Dylan Bosshart, junior, BS mechanical engineering; Grace Eitland, junior, BS psychology.

UW-Whitewater
WHITEWATER — The following students were named to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean's List for the 2021 fall semester.

Bay City: Nathan Erickson, Marketing

Hager City: Jenna Giese, Journalism

Prescott: Lucas Ackman, Media Arts and Game Development; Avery Goehring, Marketing

River Falls: Anna Cernohous, Marketing & Economics; Kaili Wescott, Marketing

Spring Valley: Lauren Anderson, Elementary Education

These students have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average of 3.4 or above in a single semester.

SUNY Canton
CANTON, NY — SUNY

Canton President Zvi Szafran congratulates Shanelle A. Borth, of Ellsworth, for earning high marks during the fall 2021 semester. Borth is a SUNY Canton Liberal Arts-General Studies major and was one of about 600 students to earn a spot on the President's List.

President's List recognizes full-time students who achieve a 3.75 or greater GPA.


Southern New Hampshire University
MANCHESTER, NH — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratu-

lates the following students on being named to the Fall 2021 President's List.


Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6.

Ellsworth: Brittany Harshman and Sara Swanson
River Falls: Rachel Belisle and Cheryl Baldwin

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