

Health Department
1000 Lake View Drive, Suite 100
Wausau, WI 54403-6797



Tel/TDD: 715-261-1900
Fax: 715-261-1901
www.co.marathon.wi.us

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Contact: Judy Burrows, Public Information Officer, 715-261-1905

For Immediate Release: Testing in Abbotsford Identifies Additional Positive Cases

Abbotsford, WI – Marathon County Health Department and Clark County Health Department provided COVID-19 testing for 411 individuals on July 9 and 10 with the aid of the Wisconsin National Guard and Family Health/La Clinica. The event provided drive-through and walk-up style COVID-19 nasal swab testing in Abbotsford.

Results are still returning, but the health department has identified over 31 additional positive cases to date for the individuals that presented for testing. Officials are urging community members to follow social distancing guidelines and to stay home if they are feeling sick.

No one was turned away. Anyone 5 years and older with any current symptom was strongly encouraged to test. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, loss of taste/smell, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, body aches, diarrhea, vomiting or nausea, chills, and/or muscle aches.

“We strive to offer accessible testing as it is a key strategy in controlling the spread of COVID-19.” Said Marathon County Health Officer Joan Theurer. “It’s important to have testing available to anyone who believes they may have been exposed.”

Patients were made aware at the event that if they receive a positive test result, a public health staff member would call them and walk them through the next steps.

Until the result is delivered, the health departments asks that all symptomatic individuals stay home and refrain from attending, work, school, church, or any other public event and to self-quarantine. Individuals will be contacted with results within 3-7 days and participants are strongly encouraged to pick up the phone for unknown numbers during that time, as it may be their COVID-test results. If individuals were not experiencing symptoms and were not identified by public health as a close contact, they can resume activity as normal after testing, using social distancing guidelines. Close contacts to positive cases will be contacted by the health department and will be asked to quarantine until the risk of infection has passed.

There were two main goals for this event. 1) Provide our communities with mass testing. 2) Give public health better insight into how widespread COVID-19 is in our communities.

Following this event, both Marathon and Clark County Health Departments will continue to support our local healthcare providers as they continue building their capacity to meet additional testing

demand. Family Health/ La Clinica, a FQHC based in Wautoma, continues to provide services for underserved individuals during the outbreak, providing a special focus on the testing needs of the migrant farmworker community.

This situation continues to evolve rapidly. For the latest information, visit the CDC's coronavirus website, the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services website](#), or the [Marathon County Health Department](#) webpage or follow us on [Facebook](#).

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