

**CORONA VIRUS INFORMATION**

**FROM DR. AMY SLAGLE, MD**

**MITW PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER**

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**THERE IS NOW CORONAVIRUS IN OUR COMMUNITY. THIS IS NOT A SURPRISE.**

**BY THE TIME THE FIRST CASE IS FOUND, THE VIRUS IS ALREADY IN THE COMMUNITY.**

**CORONAVIRUS SPREADS BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO SYMPTOMS. IT FAVORS NO GROUP OF PEOPLE BY COLOR OR HERITAGE. THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THE SPREAD IS TO STAY HOME AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

**IT IS NOW UNDERSTOOD COMMUNITIES WHO TAKE SOCIAL DISTANCING SERIOUSLY HAVE FEWER CASES AND FEWER DEATHS.**

**MEDICAL TREATMENTS ARE BEING TRIED, BUT THERE IS STILL NO DEFINITE TREATMENT AND LITTLE AVAILABILITY OF THE MEDICATIONS BEING TRIED.**

**IF TOO MANY PEOPLE GET SICK AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WILL BE MORE SICK PEOPLE THAN HOSPITAL BEDS AND VENTILATORS. THIS MEANS PEOPLE WILL DIE WAITING TO GET IN A HOSPITAL OR WAITING TO BE PUT ON A VENTILATOR.**

**THE ONLY EFFECTIVE WAY TO STOP THE SPREAD IS TO STAY HOME!!!!**

## Corona Virus (Covid-19) Facts: Update from Dr. Amy Slagle, MD

March 28, 2020

Corona virus is killing people in Wisconsin. Every person is at risk for infection, including the Menominee Nation. The more we understand about the virus, the more we will understand why we must drastically change our normal lives to stop the spread of virus.

### How it Spreads:

The virus is spreading by **people who are not sick** and don't know they have virus. This is called "**Community Spread**". Community spread is how it spreads quickly and the reason all people must practice safety instructions.

Virus lives on countertops, doorknobs, and cabinet handles for 3-4 days if not cleaned off. Virus lives on clothes, and gloves, any surface it lands on. You can't see the virus.

Virus is alive in spit and drops of liquid in coughs and sneezes. **Virus lives on hands when the cough or sneeze is covered with the hand.** Then whatever that hand touches, virus is left to infect others. If you have virus on your fingers and don't know it, then touch your eye or mouth, you will get infected.

Virus spreads fast when people gather, that is why the government has issued orders to stay home.

**Funerals are a place where virus could spread like wild fire.**

Children ARE being infected and many have no symptoms, so they are spreading it to adults.

### Severity of Illness:

- Many are mildly sick with body aches, fever, cough, and mild shortness of breath. These symptoms may last over a week, then get better, **but some people get worse.**
- Sickness can worsen 8-9 days after symptoms start. Sickness can progress to the lungs (pneumonia) then cause all the organs of the body to fail.
- Older adults (55 and older) and those with diseases like diabetes and lung problems, and people who can't fight infection are at higher risk of dying.
- **Young adults are also dying from Covid 19 even though they are healthy. The majority of people now in hospital with Covid 19 are under 50 years old.**
- If 100 people are infected, 1-4 will die. This means millions of US citizens could die.
- It was initially thought children might not get infected. **Children ARE being infected and many have no symptoms, so they are spreading it to adults. Children are getting sick with infection, too.** So, all the recommendations about staying apart and covering coughs applies to children.

### Who is being tested:

- The labs in Wisconsin do not have enough chemicals to run many tests for the virus. Only people in the hospital are being tested. **Because large numbers of tests cannot be run, the true number of infected people cannot be figured out.** The lack of testing will make the spread of virus worse because people will think the virus is not in their area.

Is there treatment? Only experimental treatment for those sick in the hospital so far.

