



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 22, 2020
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RE: Notifying community event attendees who may be at-risk for COVID-19 exposure

The La Crosse County Health Department is reporting potential risk for community exposure to COVID-19 at two locations in La Crosse County on March 11, 2020.

On March 22, 2020, the La Crosse County Health Department became aware of an individual, who is not a resident of La Crosse County, who developed symptoms of COVID-19 on March 12 and subsequently developed severe disease and is hospitalized. On March 11th, the day before developing symptoms, this individual attended a funeral at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Onalaska, from approximately 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Following the funeral, this individual dined at Red Lobster, Onalaska between 6:15pm and 7:30pm.

Health Department staff are uncertain of the number of people exposed and think that the risk for most people is likely to be low; despite this, we are issuing guidance to ensure that the public is aware and able to act based on that information. Public health recommendations are that those who attended the funeral between 4pm and 6pm at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Onalaska, or who were at Red Lobster between 6:15pm and 7:30pm stay home from work and social activities, monitor themselves until March 26th, and seek medical care if severe symptoms develop. We also request that anyone who thinks they may have been exposed identify themselves to the La Crosse County Health Department using the following form: <https://tinyurl.com/uza6fhu>.

Symptoms of COVID-19 may include cough, tiredness, muscle aches, fever, difficulty breathing, and sore throat. Rarely, some people may develop an upset stomach. If individuals plan to seek medical care, they should call ahead and notify the clinic of the potential COVID-19 exposure so that precautions can be made to prevent further spread.

It is not recommended that all people who attended the event seek testing. Testing supplies are limited and are being reserved for cases of severe illness, health care workers and long-term care residents.

For local updates about COVID-19 and other public health news, follow the La Crosse County Health Department at facebook.com/lacrossecountyhealthdepartment or visit our website at www.lacrossecounty.org/covid19.