

## Transcript

City of River Falls Mayor Dan Toland's weekly video update  
Sept. 29, 2020

Hi, Mayor Dan here. I hope everyone is hanging in there during these crazy times we are living in. Things are constantly changing all the time. I want to remind you to keep focused on the things that matter – your health and well-being, your friends and family and your faith. Please remember that sometimes we all need to talk to someone about stuff we can't handle alone. Please do not hesitate to reach out to other people that you trust to discuss things that are troubling you; none of us are alone in any of this and we belong to a community that cares.

Now, let's look at the weekly COVID-19 case numbers ...

In the first slide, you will see that Pierce County has 59 active cases. It is a decrease of 13 since last week. The cumulative case total for the county is 449. The activity level remains high.

<b>Pierce County</b>	<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>Sept. 28</b>	<b>Change</b>
Cumulative confirmed cases	408	449	+41
Active cases	72	59	-13
Recovered cases	330	383	+53
Negative cases	7,107	7,858	+751
Deaths	6	7	+1
Activity level	High	High	No change

Pierce County Public Health revised its May 15<sup>th</sup> "Call to Action" advisory last week in response to the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in River Falls. The advisory addresses mass gathering limitations, safe business practices, travel, and disease prevention. You can find the updated advisory at the website on your screen.

If you are watching the Pierce County COVID-19 dashboard, you will note that it now includes cases numbers from K-12 schools in Pierce County. You can find the link to the county dashboard at the web address on your screen.

At the same website, you can find a link to the UWRF dashboard, which shows active and probable cases, testing numbers, and positivity rates, among other things.

In this next slide, you can see that St. Croix County has 294 active cases, an increase of 61 since last week. The cumulative case total is now 958. St. Croix County's activity level is high.

<b>St. Croix County</b>	<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>Sept. 28</b>	<b>Change</b>
Cumulative confirmed cases	846	958	+112
Active cases	233	294	+61
Recovered cases	605	656	+51
Negative cases	14,216	16,187	+1,971
Deaths	8	8	No change
Activity level	High	High	No change

Slide three shows us that there are 19,560 active cases in Wisconsin, an increase of nearly 5,150 cases since last week.

State of Wisconsin	Sept. 21	Sept. 28	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	102,498	117,588	+15,090
Active cases	14,414	19,560	+5,146
Recovered cases	86,822	96,727	+9,905
Negative cases	1,337,627	1,405,377	+67,750
Deaths	1,244	1,283	+39

The state's Department of Health and Human Services has said that new reports of COVID-19 cases remain high in Wisconsin. We all need to keep following all the health guidelines for everyone's safety and so we can continue to keep all our businesses opened and operating.

It's not all doom and gloom though. On slide four, you'll see that Pierce County is now able to contact new cases within 24 hours, which is a positive change from last week. However, they are not able to trace all close contacts within 24 hours. This is largely due to the outbreak at UWRF where there are currently 68 probable cases.

Local/regional	Sept. 21	Sept. 28
Adequate PPE supplies for staff	Yes	Yes
City/regional testing capacity	Yes	Yes
Case contact within 24 hours (Pierce County)	No	Yes
Close contact tracing within 24 hours (Pierce County)	No	No

Now, on to some other news ...

In June, floodwaters damaged the Powell Falls Dam which forms the impoundment we call Lake Louise. In order to see the full extent of the damage, we will need to draw down water from the lake. To avoid disrupting amphibian hibernation and trout spawning, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources would like this project completed by mid-October.

So, we intend to begin the drawdown as early as this Thursday once we receive final confirmation from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. It will take about two weeks for the water to recede. During that time, please stay clear of the lakebed. Because of some temporarily high water, kayak launching below the dam may be difficult for a week or so.

Once the lake water has receded, we will inspect the dam and observe shorelines, sediment, sewer infrastructure and other aspects of this area but as of right now we are still on the agreed upon timeline for the final decommissioning of the dam. We will determine over the winter if Lake Louise will be refilled next year.

I know you have been bombarded with election information and materials. It can be overwhelming. Here are just a few important election tips I want to share today:

- If you are not registered to vote, you can do that now at [myvote.wi.edu](http://myvote.wi.edu). You can visit the **same site** if you have moved since you last voted, changed your name, or recently become an American citizen.

- If you intend to vote absentee, you can request a ballot at the same site
- Once you've received your ballot, fill it out and return it by mail, place it in drop boxes at City Hall, or bring it to City Hall prior to the Election. Should you choose to mail your ballot, please allow extra time for it to reach us.
- Of course, you can always vote on Election Day. Staff and volunteers will be there to help you with smiling faces and all the necessary virus prevention measures in place.
- If you've already voted, thank you for exercising your right and participating in this important process.

If you have questions about the election, feel free to contact the City Clerk staff by email or phone during business hours. You can find contact information at the website below.

Before I wrap up, I want to remind you that our annual Fall Clean Up begins next Monday, October fifth, and runs through Saturday October 10th. Clean-Up Day is available to River Falls Municipal Utility customers only. Visit the website on your screen below for more information, including what to bring and what not to bring.

One final thing, I know I sound like a broken record, but it's important ...

**Please** continue to be vigilant about protecting yourself and others in our community. We need to all do our part if we are going to contain the spread of COVID 19. That means:

- Washing your hands frequently and thoroughly
- Staying six feet apart from others
- Wearing your mask
- Avoiding gathering in big groups
- Staying home when you're sick or have been exposed to the virus, and
- Following guidance provided by our county health professionals

One more final, final ...

I hope you all appreciated my joke last week. I really like the idea of ending these videos on a fun and positive note, so instead of putting you guys through the agony of me and my joke telling, I would like to post pictures of everyone's pets. All you need to do is send me one picture of your pet or pets and their names to my email address. Each week I will post some of them. I will start it off with a picture of my two idiots, Deuce and Bacon. Enjoy!

I'll see you next week. As always, if you have questions or comments, please send them to me at [dtoland@rfcity.org](mailto:dtoland@rfcity.org).