

Transcript

City of River Falls Mayor Dan Toland's weekly video update
Oct. 20, 2020

Hi, Mayor Dan here.

Well, looks like it might be time to get out the snow shovels! I am being very optimistic that this little bit of winter is just a small reminder of hopefully what is coming in a couple of months and not just weeks. So, in that same mind set, don't forget to mark your calendars for Nov. 1 when our odd/even parking order goes into effect. If you're new to town, check out the how-tos at the first address on your screen. The second address will take you to our snow removal page for info on what we do to keep the City cleared of ice and snow. There are also tips for what **you** can do to keep your family and neighborhood safe. (rfcity.org/parking; rfcity.org/snowremoval)

Now, let's look at the weekly COVID-19 case numbers ... In the first slide, you will see that Pierce County has 74 active cases, an increase of six since last week. The cumulative case total for the county is 601. The activity level is high.

Pierce County	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	538	601	+63
Active cases	68	74	+6
Recovered cases	463	520	+57
Negative cases	8,803	9,264	+461
Deaths	7	7	No change
Activity level	High	High	No change

In this next slide, you can see that St. Croix County has 630 active cases, an increase of 73 since last week. The cumulative case total is now 1,477. St. Croix County's activity level is also high.

St. Croix County	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	1,303	1,477	+174
Active cases	557	630	+73
Recovered cases	737	837	+100
Negative cases	18,488	19,624	+1,136
Deaths	9	10	+1
Activity level	High	High	No change

Slide three shows us that there are nearly 35,350 active cases in Wisconsin, an increase of 5,867 cases since last week.

State of Wisconsin	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	152,192	173,891	+21,699
Active cases	29,478	35,345	+5,867
Recovered cases	121,204	136,910	+15,706
Negative cases	1,545,692	1,703,813	+158,121
Deaths	1,474	1,600	+126

On slide four, you'll see that Pierce County continues to be able to contact new cases within 24 hours. However, they are not able to trace all close contacts within 24 hours.

Local/regional	Oct. 12	Oct. 19
Adequate PPE supplies for staff	Yes	Yes
City/regional testing capacity	Yes	Yes
Case contact within 24 hours (Pierce County)	Yes	Yes
Close contact tracing within 24 hours (Pierce County)	No	No

Last Wednesday, a judge in Sawyer County made a ruling that temporarily prevented enforcement of Governor Evers gathering limit order. Then, yesterday, a Barron County judge revived the Governor's order when it denied a motion from the Tavern League of Wisconsin. This puts back the order of 25% occupancy in indoor businesses where the public can enter.

I know it's difficult to keep up with rapidly changing guidance from the state. Believe me, I know. Luckily, we have a good team of public health officers and business, community, and local government leaders who are working together to keep us focused on our community's virus mitigation efforts. So, let's stay focused – even when state leadership makes it difficult. Like I have said a million times, we can do this together because ours is a community that cares.

On to some other news ...

After two years of project planning, the Library has installed and implemented a new Automated Material Handling system to check in material and sort it by collection type before it gets shelved. I am proud to say that ours is the first library in our ten-county system to have such a system.

I join the Library staff in expressing our sincere gratitude to the Library Board of Trustees for approving the expenditure for this new technology, and to the many generous Library donors who made it happen.

In-person absentee voting began this morning at City Hall and will continue through October 30. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 24.

If you have questions about in-person voting, please contact the City Clerk staff by email or phone during business hours. Contact information and voting hours are available on the City's Elections webpage. (www.rfcity.org/elections)

If you plan to vote **by mail**, you are running out of time to request your ballot online. You should plan for a two-week turn-around from the time you request your ballot to Election Day when it is due. See myvote.wi.gov to request and track your ballot. We will also have all of our safety protocols in place and sanitizer at the ready when you go to your polling place to vote in person on November third if you prefer.

I want to thank the Utility Department for another successful Electronics Recycling Event. The team worked nonstop for four hours and filled three semis and two large cargo trucks. I heard

that, at one point, the line of cars and trucks dropping items off extended from the Public Works Garage all the way to the Library! This year the event included a prescription drug drop-off organized by the Police Department. It was also quite successful. I want to also thank you, our residents, for being patient – and for wearing your masks!

I hope you all received the City's new electronic newsletter in your email in-boxes last week. If you didn't, and want to be added to our distribution list, see the newsletter for instructions. You can find it on the City's home page below. (www.rfcity.org)

And, if you haven't taken the very short communications survey, I would appreciate it. It will really help us refine our communications services. We want to make sure that you're always "in the know" about what's happening in River Falls. You can find a link to the survey in the newsletter.

Remember to take some time every day to focus on some happy thoughts and activities as much as you can. All of the doom and gloom will still be there tomorrow, focus on some of the fun stuff today.

Now, I want to leave you with some cute pet pictures. The first photo is of Oz and Harley, followed by Toby and Romeo, and last, but not least ... S'mores.



Please email me a picture of your favorite pet and I will include it in an upcoming video, and feel free to reach out to me at any time if you have questions or comments on any subject. I want to hear from you. You can find me at dtoland@rfcity.org.