

## Transcript

City of River Falls Mayor Dan Toland's weekly video update  
Oct. 27, 2020

Hi, Mayor Dan here.

Well, here we are a week out from the General Election. It's been a long haul, I know, but we're getting very close to the finish line and, remember, no matter what happens the sun will still come up the next day. We will still be a caring and compassionate community. So, if you wish to vote early and in person, you can do that at City Hall through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you are looking forward to voting on Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we are ready for you! City staff have been working hard to ensure that voting at each of the City's polling locations is as efficient and safe as possible. When you come to vote, please wear a mask and maintain a six-foot distance from poll workers and fellow voters. To check your polling location, visit [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov).

Remember, completed ballots are due at City Hall by 8 p.m. on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is a safe drop box in the main parking lot available 24/7 as well as one in the City Hall lobby available during business hours. Remember, we cannot accept a ballot that is returned at a polling location.

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

In the first slide, you will see that Pierce County has 90 active cases, an increase of 16 since last week. The cumulative case total for the county is 689. The activity level is high.

<b>Pierce County</b>	<b>Oct. 19</b>	<b>Oct. 25</b>	<b>Change</b>
Cumulative confirmed cases	601	689	+88
Active cases	74	90	+16
Recovered cases	520	592	+72
Negative cases	9,264	9,701	+437
Deaths	7	7	No change
Activity level	High	High	No change

In this next slide, you can see that St. Croix County has 788 active cases, an increase of over 148 since last week. The cumulative case total is now nearly 1,800. St. Croix County's activity level is also high.

<b>St. Croix County</b>	<b>Oct. 19</b>	<b>Oct. 26</b>	<b>Change</b>
Cumulative confirmed cases	1,477	1,795	+318
Active cases	630	778	+148
Recovered cases	837	1,006	+169
Negative cases	19,624	20,833	+1,209
Deaths	10	11	+1
Activity level	High	High	No change

Slide three shows us that there are over 41,000 active cases in Wisconsin, an increase of 5,722 cases since last week.

<b>State of Wisconsin</b>	<b>Oct. 19</b>	<b>Oct. 26</b>	<b>Change</b>
Cumulative confirmed cases	173,891	201,049	+27,158
<b>Active cases</b>	<b>35,345</b>	<b>41,067</b>	<b>+5,722</b>
Recovered cases	136,910	158,158	+21,248
Negative cases	1,703,813	1,777,892	+74,079
Deaths	1,600	1,788	+188

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

<b>Local/regional</b>	<b>Oct. 19</b>	<b>Oct. 26</b>
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

I want to let you know that new testing sites have been added in both St. Croix and Pierce counties. You can find links to testing site information at the City's COVID-19 webpage found at the address below. Some of the sites require that you have COVID-like symptoms or have been exposed to the virus before you can get tested. Others do not, so please read the information carefully.

Cases at UWRF are holding steady, with 20 active cases and four students in isolation.

The School District closed Rocky Branch Elementary beginning today through Nov. 6 to avoid an outbreak in the building after several staff tested positive for COVID-19, which was likely passed among staff in the building. Teachers will continue to teach remotely during this 2-week closure. The district is doing all it can to mitigate the virus in River Falls schools. They have followed strict protocols for quarantining and contact tracing as cases and exposures are known. To see their weekly snapshot of COVID-19 activity, visit the webpage below ([www.rfcity.org/COVID19](http://www.rfcity.org/COVID19)).

I would like to thank our administrators, educators, parents, and students, who have worked hard to not only contain the spread of COVID-19 in our physical buildings but have also found new ways to teach and learn online. It has not been easy, and, so far, our schools, college, and university have risen to the task and I know the community joins me in thanking them

Now, on to some other news ...

As you probably know – especially if you have kids! – Halloween is this Saturday. I encourage you to check out the several contactless trick-or-treating opportunities around town, including drive-through events at the Library and Chamber of Commerce on Saturday from 3-6 p.m. Visit the City’s COVID-19 web page for links to these and other Halloween events in the area. Remember to take a picture of your little ghosts and goblins so I can feature them in my video next week.

On our web page, you can also find links for safe Halloween celebration ideas offered by the CDC and Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

If you’ve entered or exited River Falls from Division St., you’re likely to have used the new “Jug Handle” ramp. I know it will take a bit of getting used to, so please drive safely as you get to know the new traffic patterns. This ramp will prevent left turns across Highway traffic, which will make highway 35 much safer. I want to thank the state for completing the project in record time and for our City staff who orchestrated the project. We anticipate that signage will be completed soon, and that new lighting will be installed later next month.

I want to remind you that odd/even parking goes into effect Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. If you’re new to town or just need a refresher, check out parking instructions at the website below ([www.rfcity.org/parking](http://www.rfcity.org/parking)).

Now, I want to leave you with some cute pet pictures. This week's Pets of the Week are getting ready for the Halloween weekend. First, we have Winter, next is Christmas, and last, but not least, is Julius.



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](mailto:dtoland@rfcity.org).