



To our community,

I think it is important to remember, now more than ever, that personal health information should be protected. I realize we all live in interconnected communities where rumors and gossip can dominate discussions. We strive to respect the privacy of individuals who are experiencing the effects of COVID-19 in our community, and to protect their rights to privacy.

All community leaders are in a unique position to limit that level of discussion to respect and guard our fellow citizens from discrimination.

At Two Rivers Public Health Department, we rarely report less than a geographic level of our district unless we feel the anonymity of the individual could be protected. Currently we are reporting counties in which a significant population allows this protection.

I personally believe it would be irresponsible and in violation of an individual's personal health rights to report at a single community level with a population level insufficient to provide anonymity.

At this time we are reporting 3 laboratory confirmed cases-2 in Buffalo County (initial and close contact), 1 in Dawson County. The 3rd case does not appear to be linked to the first 2.

Any thoughts regarding community transmission at this time are speculation, especially individuals outside of the healthcare/public health sector.

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