

Mayor Dan Toland
Video update transcript
 July 21, 2020

Hi, Mayor Dan here with another weekly video update. I appreciate those of you who are following the videos. If there is anything you'd like me to cover in the video, please let me know at dtoland@rfcity.org.

Several of you have asked about providing a written transcript for the hearing impaired. I really appreciate that suggestion. You can now find printed transcripts of my video updates at www.rfcity.org/covid19.

Now, as usual, I would like to catch you up on some COVID-19 case numbers. Here is what is happening in Pierce County. Currently, there are 27 active cases, a decrease of two from last week. You can see that total cases are now at 133 and that the county's activity level is high.

Pierce County	July 13	July 20	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	110	133	+23
Active cases	29	27	-2
Recovered cases	91	106	+15
Negative tests	3,235	3,616	+381
Deaths	0	0	No change
Activity level	High	High	No change

Pierce County has made some big changes to their online dashboard. The expanded data is very helpful for the City when calculating our recovery response. It is also helpful to residents who just want to know what is going on. You can find new dashboard [here](#).

In slide 2 you will see that St. Croix County, has 135 active cases, a decrease of 23 from last week for a cumulative total of 348 cases. Their activity level is also high.

St. Croix County	July 13	July 20	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	301	348	+47
Active cases	158	135	-23
Recovered cases	148	211	+63
Negative tests	7,667	8,563	+896
Deaths	2	2	No change
Activity level	High	High	No change

On slide 3 You will see that there were over 9,000 active cases in the state yesterday, with a total of 846 deaths statewide.

State of Wisconsin	July 13	July 20	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	36,942	43,018	+6,076
Active cases	7,447	9,037	+1,590
Recovered cases	28,670	33,130	+4,460
Negative cases	659,479	737,191	+77,712
Deaths	820	846	+26

On Saturday, the state hit 978 new positive coronavirus cases, setting a new daily record. The percentage of people testing positive also increased, jumping from 6.6% on Friday to 7.9% on Saturday.

On slide 4 I want to share some of our local and regional criteria for moving to the next phase of our recovery plan. If you recall, we also take state criteria into account when deciding when and how to move forward. You can see that we are currently meeting the criteria in these areas.

Local/regional	July 13	July 20
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)	Yes	Yes
Immediate bed availability (Northwest Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition)	31% availability	27% availability

This last figure represents the percentage of beds available to treat COVID patients in the 15-county region of northwest Wisconsin. You can see that this percentage has decreased by four percentage points since last week, so that means less beds are available. We are keeping a close watch on all the data as cases continue to rise in our region.

City Administrator Scot Simpson and I are meeting with River Falls business owners on Thursday. We look forward to this opportunity to hear their concerns and how the City can help them with their recovery plans. One of the things we will discuss is masking and how it is a good decision to help them stay open.

At the July 28 meeting, the City Council will consider a resolution advising the wearing of masks as an important tool for the community. If you have comments that you would like Councilmembers to hear, I encourage you to email or call and leave a message for them in lieu of attending the meeting for in person comments.

If you do choose to come to the Council meeting, consistent with our “Crushing COVID-19” plan, and current county health guidelines, please understand you will be required to wear a mask in the building, the only exception being that you are physically unable to. The capacity of the room is very limited, so be prepared to wait outside of the building for your turn. There will also be a sign-up sheet if you want to speak and there will be a one-minute time limit.

I know everyone wants to express their beliefs and concerns on this issue, so, for the sake of time and safety of everyone, and the limited space, I will not be allowing people to express the repeatedly. The Council and I are very aware of people’s concerns and arguments on both sides of this issue, so I will be looking to hear from people with a different outlook on it. For more information, you can also view the meeting agenda on the City’s website at www.rfcity.org.

I want to remind you – again – that the more consistently we all wear our masks, the more each of us can help River Falls’ businesses stay open and our schools to be able to reopen safely.

Now, here are some updates from the City ...

I want to remind you that the 2020 Census is underway and picking up steam. So far, 70% of River Falls residents have completed the census. That means 30 more percent of us need to do it! The Census is very quick and simple to completed – I did it in about five minutes. Just go to www.2020Census.gov and get started.

Remember, the Census determines the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities. It’s true ... everyone counts!

The majority of census offices across the country will begin follow-up work on August 11. That means they will be knocking on your door. All offices will conclude work no later than October 31. For safety measures that Census workers are taking as they move throughout our neighborhoods, visit www.2020census.gov.

Reminder: in-person absentee voting at City Hall begins next Tuesday, July 28, and runs through Friday August 7. If you haven’t yet requested your ballot for the Aug. 11 Partisan Primary Election, you can do it now at www.myvote.wi.gov. The City Clerk reports that over 2,080 ballots have been mailed as of yesterday, with an additional 10 requests for ballots daily.

See you next week. In the meantime, if you have questions or comments, please send them to me at dtoland@rfcity.org.

Have a good and safe week. Remember to be kind and consider how your choices affect others.