

**What is COVID-19?**

COVID-19 is a virus not previously seen in people. The fact that it is new is important because it means no one has any immunity to it. Each of us is likely to get sick when exposed.

**How severe is the illness?**

Infections can range from minimal symptoms like a minor cold to severe, life-threatening illness. Severe illness can be seen in otherwise healthy individuals of any age. It appears those at highest risk for severe disease include people with chronic conditions such as heart or lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease, and those with weakened immune systems to name a few.

**What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

Symptoms can include fever, cough, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, shortness of breath and diarrhea. Symptoms appear 2-14 days after exposure. **A person with COVID-19 can be contagious for a day or two before they develop any symptoms of illness.** This is called asymptomatic transmission and is why states have closed schools and many businesses. This is also why we should maintain social distance of at least 6 ft both indoors and outdoors.

**How does COVID-19 spread?**

The virus spreads two primary ways. First is respiratory droplets produced mainly when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Second is when people touch a surface that has the virus on it and then touch the inside of their nose, eyes or mouth. This is why frequent hand washing helps prevent the spread.

**What is the COVID-19 testing situation in Reedsburg?**

Patients with symptoms worrisome for COVID-19 can be tested at the clinic. Call 608-524-8611 for an appointment. Patients with or without symptoms can be tested thru the Sauk County Health Department and other testing locations throughout Sauk County. Specific information on this can be found on the RAMC website and Facebook page, as well as Sauk County Health Department website and social media.

**How long should I stay home if sick?**

If you have the symptoms of a viral respiratory disease listed above, you should stay home until your fever has been gone for 3 days and your symptoms have improved and it has been at least 10 days since the start of your illness.

**When should I see a doctor?**

If you have symptoms that you feel you can manage at home, you do not need to see a doctor. If you are older, have underlying medical conditions or are not sure if you need to be seen, please call your healthcare provider. If you have severe shortness of breath or find yourself worsening after you have been improving, please seek medical care.

**When should I go to the emergency room?**

If at any time you experience extreme shortness of breath or extreme difficulty breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, bluish lips or face or feel extremely ill, go to the ER, calling first to allow them to prepare for your arrival.

**Is there a treatment for COVID-19?**

There is no specific treatment at this time. Hospitalized patients will receive supportive care such as IV fluids and oxygen.