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RUSK COUNTY UPDATE ON COVID-19

As the public health emergency continues Rusk County continues to monitor the situation and take prudent steps to maintain operations, serve the public, and protect the health and safety of our employees. The County has recognized and adhered to Wisconsin's Safer at Home Order (Emergency Order #12) and will also follow the extension (Emergency Order #28) until 8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, or until a superseding order is issued.

All Rusk County Government facilities will remain limited access to the public. This includes the Government Center, Highway Department, Animal Shelter, Visitors Center and Senior/Youth Building at the Fairgrounds. Public access is limited to prior arranged appointments, essential meetings, and necessary statutory activities. The Rusk County Circuit Court and District Attorney's office are conducting business with the Court holding hearings through video and teleconferencing. The Clerk of Courts office is assisting through window visits and telephone calls. All County offices and Departments are in operation and staffed and can be reached by phone and email. The public is encouraged to call the appropriate office for any business they need to conduct. Staff will continue to conduct business over the phone or through technology whenever possible. If absolutely necessary, an appointment will be made for an in-person visit.

The public is encouraged to visit the County website www.ruskcounty.org to see if the service needed can be accomplished on-line.

Continuing to limit public traffic within the County Government facilities and in person with the public is a means of social distancing that has been recommended by the CDC to control the spread of the virus. We encourage the public to also practice social distancing and be proactive in their efforts to not contract or spread the virus.

Please be assured that all County operations remain available and operational.

The Register of Deeds is continuing to file timely all real estate and land records. They are also available for those needing vital records such a birth or death certificates. Please visit their website at www.ruskcounty.org for access to online records or to request documents or reach them by phone to make arrangements (715) 532-2139.

The Treasurer's office is accepting tax payments. Payments can be made by mail, through the website, or in person by prior appointment.

Marriage licenses, dog licenses, and cutting permits can be obtained from the Rusk County Clerk's office. Dog licensing can be done through the Clerk's webpage, and updated vaccination information emailed to the office.

Land use permit applications are available through the Rusk County Zoning office.

With it being spring, the Rusk County Fairgrounds and Trails End Camp are preparing to reopen. However, we will adhere to any and all State and/or local emergency public health orders as to what events may be held at these facilities. We have had to cancel some reservations in May for Trails End, and will continue to monitor and communicate with users.

All recycling sites in the Rusk County Responsible Unit are open with their usual hours. Please maintain social distancing when at the site and you will have to empty your own items into the dumpsters. No loitering will be allowed. Please call the Recycling Dept. at 715-532-2167 if you have any questions or visit ruskcounty.org/RecyclingSites to find out locations and hours.

The Rusk County Animal Shelter is closed to walk-in traffic, but is doing adoptions by appointment and should be contacted for stray animal pick-up. Visit their website <http://ruskanimals.com/> or call (715) 532-2637.

Rusk County Health & Human Services continues to remain committed to the needs of the county. The Department can be contacted at (715) 532-2299 to report child abuse and neglect or adult protection concerns or to reach Public Health, Veteran Services, Aging Disability Resource Center, Adult Services, Children & Family Services and Child Support. The mental health crisis line is available 24/7 by calling 1-888-636-6655. The Northern Income Maintenance Consortium can be reached at 1-888-794-5722 regarding Medicaid/Medicare and FoodShare related inquiries.

All Rusk County Lands, Parks, and Trails are open for your recreational enjoyment – as they normally would be (ATV trails open the Friday before Memorial Day). At this time, no camping is permitted in Rusk County Campgrounds. All Rusk County boat landings are open, however bathroom facilities will remain closed until further notice.

If you have any questions regarding County operations, or need help reaching the correct department, please contact the Rusk County Clerk's office at (715) 532-2100.

The Rusk County Board and Staff appreciate the public's cooperation, as well continue to work through the challenges of the public health emergency.