April 22, 2020

RELEASED STATEMENT

The West Allis Health Department today is reporting 132 total positive cases, 764 negative test results, 35 resolved (formerly positive) cases, and 10 COVID-19 related deaths. Due to the relative small number of deaths, no details are provided to protect their privacy and confidentiality. Among the total cases in West Allis and West Milwaukee, we are working with an undisclosed facility where there is an outbreak.

The ability for the facility to perform testing internally has resulted in knowing more precisely who is, in fact, positive to include identifying those who are otherwise not showing symptoms – or asymptomatic --- and could be unknowingly spreading the virus. This increased testing is a positive step in being able to identify the positives, better understand the scope of the virus' spread, and serves to help determine intervention methods. As shared in a correspondence with the community last week, those with a positive test result are isolated and those who may have been exposed have been contacted by the Health Department.

At the community-wide level, according to data that is available to the Health Department, of those who test positive in West Allis and West Milwaukee approximately 17% are currently hospitalized, 43% are >65 years old, 83% are isolated at their primary residence, and 35 who have recovered fully from their symptoms.

Just as there is community spread among the general population in West Allis, other suburban jurisdictions, in the City of Milwaukee and, in general, statewide, there is community spread in a particular facility. With this understanding, disclosing the details of the facility does not serve to protect the public and that the privacy and confidentiality of the impacted individuals at this facility need to be respected and maintained.