



# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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To protect, nurture, and advance  
the health of our community

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### First COVID-19 Death in Oneida County

Rhineland, WI- Oneida County Health Department is confirming the first death in Oneida County associated with COVID-19. The individual was in their 80's and had an underlying health condition.

"We are saddened by the loss of one of our community members," said Linda Conlon, Oneida County Health Department Director and Health Officer. "We extend our sympathies to their loved ones and all impacted."

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, and National Vital Statistics System, "In public health emergencies, mortality surveillance provides crucial information about population-level disease progression, as well as guides the development of public health interventions and assessment of their impact. One of the most important methods of mortality surveillance is through monitoring causes of death as reported on death certificates. The death certificate provides essential information about the deceased and the cause(s) and circumstances of death. The immediate cause of death, which is the disease or condition that directly preceded death, is not necessarily the underlying cause of death (UCOD). In many cases, COVID-19 will be the UCOD, as it can lead to various life-threatening conditions, such as pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Not all conditions present at the time of death have to be reported--only those conditions that actually contributed to death. Survival from COVID-19 can be complicated by pre-existing chronic conditions, especially those that result in diminished lung capacity, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or asthma. These medical conditions do not cause COVID-19, but can increase the risk of contracting a respiratory infection and death."

COVID-19 can cause serious health complications and death, especially among older adults and people with chronic health conditions, that's why it's important that we all work together to prevent the spread of illness. Simple actions such as washing hands, physical distancing, wearing face coverings and staying home when sick can have a huge impact on the health and safety of Oneida County. "Preventing COVID-19 requires a community approach. It's important that we continue to take steps to protect one another, especially our most vulnerable," added Conlon.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and information may change. To read the latest information about COVID-19 check the Oneida County Health Department website ([oneidacountypublichealth.org](http://oneidacountypublichealth.org)) or Facebook page ([facebook.com/OneidaCountyHealthDepartment/](https://facebook.com/OneidaCountyHealthDepartment/)), the Department of Health Services (DHS) website (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

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Monday – Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM

*Embracing change, partnerships, and best practices to lead  
Oneida County to a healthy and equitable future*