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NEWS RELEASE

To: Local Media
From: Marie-Noel Sandoval, MPH, Health Officer
Date: July 9th, 2020

Wisconsin's 10th Anniversary of Smoke Free Air

On July 5th, Wisconsin celebrated the 10th anniversary of the passing of the Smoke Free Indoor Air Law. Since this law passed, rates of adult and youth smoking have decreased and countless Wisconsinites have been protected from the dangers of second-hand smoke. The Smoke Free Indoor Air Law is a great example of how policy change can impact the health of entire communities. This is public health at work. While there have been positive outcomes, our work to reduce smoking in our community is not over!

Smoking and second-hand smoke exposure can cause cardiovascular and lung disease, stroke, and lung cancer. Smoking impairs lung function and the immune system, making it harder for our bodies to fight off coronaviruses. Available research suggests that if you smoke, you are at higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 outcomes, including death. With COVID-19 spreading rapidly throughout the United States and our community, now is the time to quit smoking. Support is available by calling the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT NOW.

For the latest information about COVID-19 in Rock County, visit the Rock County Public Health Department's website, www.co.rock.wi.us/publichealth.

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