

DNR Seeks Comments On Grand Marais Area Lake And Stream Management Plans

People interested in the strategies the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources uses for managing fisheries in Grand Marais-area lakes and streams are encouraged to submit comments on management plans scheduled for review this winter. This annual review process includes several waters located within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW).

Comments on fish management for lakes and streams in the Grand Marais area will be accepted through Dec. 21.

A management plan identifies specific fisheries management activities planned for a lake or stream over the next five to 20 years, including any proposed stocking or special regulations.

"The management plans are great resources for anglers and anybody else interested in our lakes and streams," said Steve Persons, Grand Marais area fisheries supervisor. "They document where we've been, where we'd like to go, and how we hope to get there."

Comments and suggestions from people who care about waters in this area are crucial when it comes to determining how those public waters should be managed. Feedback from the public is an important consideration in determining management success.

The DNR will review plans this winter for the following Grand Marais-area lakes and streams:

Lakes

The status and preservation of lake trout populations and fisheries will be the primary concern in plans being reviewed for Bat, Gneiss, Loon, Misquah, and Moss lakes. Bat, Gneiss, and Misquah lakes are located inside the

BWCAW.

Stream trout stocking and management strategies will be reviewed for Bogus, Dislocation, Esther, and Lima lakes. Trout management will continue in all four lakes, but species, sizes and numbers stocked will be reviewed.

Plans for Benson, Binagami, Little Cascade, Clara, Crab, Devilfish, Logger, Mauser, Pickerel, West Pope, Star, Stevens, and White Pine lakes will be reviewed. In these lakes the status and needs of walleye, northern pike, panfish or smallmouth bass fisheries will be of most concern.

Plans for several lightly-used BWCAW lakes in the area including Allen, Kelly, Peterson, Rove, and Watap lakes will be reviewed. Those plans will be revised primarily to incorporate new survey data and to establish survey schedules for the next few years.

Streams

Plans for Bally Creek, Kadunce Creek, and Pike Lake Creek will be reviewed. Bally and Kadunce Creeks are important brook trout streams, and Kadunce Creek is one of the area's best streams for steelhead. Plans will address habitat needs and means of improving the resilience of streams and their watersheds in the face of climate change.

For more information, to request copies of current plans, or to discuss the plans, call or email Steve Persons at 218-387-6022 or steve.persons@state.mn.us.

This comment period will extend through Dec. 21. However, comments, suggestions and other feedback on the management of these and all other streams and lakes in the area are welcomed at any time, and will be considered when those plans are next due for review.

When to Get a Covid Test: Free Testing for Anyone at the DECC

By Kitty Mayo

Covid-19 cases continue to grow in Lake County, adding 12 new cases in the last week. This compares to 18 new cases the previous week, making a total of 88. Cook County has breached the double digit mark this last week at 10 total cases.

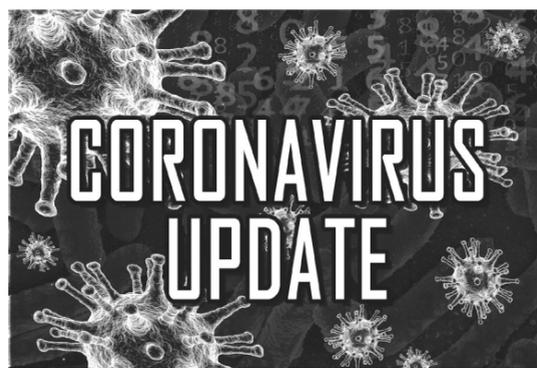
Greg Ruberg, Lake View CEO/president, says that education to the public about when to get a test is ongoing.

"People keep requesting to be tested immediately after some exposure, and we need to remind them that they should contact their physician or call the St. Luke's Covid-19 hotline for guidance before showing up at the clinic or hospital," said Ruberg.

At issue is that each exposure is different, and the level of risk of transmission needs to be evaluated to determine need for testing. "Close contact" is defined as 15 minutes or more within six feet of a known positive case. While this guideline does not guarantee transmission, or lack thereof, it is what is being used by health care providers to determine need for testing.

Additionally, being tested immediately after a known exposure is likely to give a negative result (as in: no Covid-19). However, if tested within a few hours, or even a couple of days, in most cases it is too soon to tell if you have been transmitted the virus. That is because the incubation period of the virus is estimated to be 5 to 14 days after a high-risk exposure.

If you have had low-risk exposure to someone with Covid-19, or indirectly through someone else's contact, most health care professionals advise that (after calling your doctor or the hotline for their advice) you stay home and



monitor for symptoms. St. Luke's Covid-19 hotline: (218)249-4200.

Free testing without symptoms or any restrictions of risk of contact is available for anyone over the age of 4 at the Duluth DECC Wednesday through Sunday.

Despite the extremely disruptive effect that quarantining has on all of our lives, epidemiologists agree that is our single best tactic for stopping a devastating outbreak.

Strain on the local and regional health care system remains a high priority concern. Staffing challenges are at the forefront of creating pressure on hospital and clinic resources.

Ruberg says that the strain on Lake View and the entire health care system is not directly related to active Covid-19 cases, but instead relates to multiple factors necessary to contain the virus, as well as a general high need for medical interventions after many patients delayed care early on in the pandemic.

"I can't emphasize enough how important it is for the community to help control the spread of the virus in order to avoid putting more pressure on an already stretched system," said Ruberg.

Got the COVID-19 Blues? How about some Sisu Stew?

We can't have big community potlucks right now, but we can have Sisu Stew! Finland area and Isabella folks, call the Clair Nelson Center at **218-353-0300** to sign up, or visit <https://openfoodnetwork.net/friends-of-finland/shop> - it's free!

Soup pick up will be November 1st. Please let us know if you are isolated and unable to pick up your order, some limited delivery will be possible. We are also planning for more curbside community meals like this in the near future, so spread the word.



Did this guy deliver you, give you stitches, or more recently try to whip your butt on the pickle ball court?

Well, Doc is turning



80 on

October 21st.

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