

# Marathon County Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situational Report April 27, 2020 (11:00 AM) Joan Theurer, Health Officer

## What we Know

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus strain that began spreading in people in December 2019. Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new respiratory virus. On March 11, 2020 the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

As of April 25, 2020, the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports 928,619 cases in the United States, and 52,459 deaths. Jurisdictions reporting cases: 55 (50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, and US Virgin Islands).

In Wisconsin, as of April 26, 2020, the [WI Department of Health Services](#) reports 5,911 cases, 1,397 hospitalized (24%), and 272 deaths. Sixty-six (66) counties have one or more case. [Maps of rates of cases and percentage of deaths by county](#) now available.

For Marathon County, there are 17 cases and 1 death as of April 26, 2020. 602 residents have tested negative for COVID-19. No new cases have been reported since April 17, 2020.

When COVID-19 hit Wisconsin, it started to spread very rapidly. This is what happens, when a very infectious, brand-new virus enters a community. No one is safe as no one is immune. That means a lot of people can get sick very quickly and overrun our hospitals. This happen in Italy and New York City. Safer at Home was put in place to protect Wisconsin from this situation.

Staying at home has helped to [flatten the curve](#), slowing the spread of COVID-19. Safer at Home has saved lives, protected health care workers and prevented hospitals from being overrun. However, it is not a workable long-term solution for our economy or our way of life. On April 20, 2020, the Badger Bounce Back plan was released outlining what needs to be in place using a phased approach to safely reopen Wisconsin. To reopen our communities, Wisconsin needs to continue to:

- Increase lab testing, whereby every resident who has symptoms of COVID-19 has access to a lab test
- Increase contact tracing to control the spread of the virus and have everyone who is infected or exposed safely isolated or quarantined
- Build on state-wide public health data systems to track the spread of COVID-19.
- Procure more PPE and other supplies to protect health care and response workers.
- Support surge [capacity of our health care systems](#).

Decisions on readiness to move from phase to phase are guided by data, enabling Wisconsin to reopen while preventing a second wave of COVID-19.

## Major Developments

### U.S.

On April 25, [Information for Clinicians on Investigational Therapeutics for Patients with COVID-19](#) was posted. The National Institutes of Health published interim guidelines for the medical management of

COVID-19. The guidelines contain information about investigational therapeutics and will be updated as new information emerges and drugs and other therapeutic interventions are approved for use by FDA.

## Wisconsin

On April 20, Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Palm, release Emergency Order #31, [Badger Bounce Back](#). The Badger Bounce Back plan provides a phased approach to reopening the economy and communities, with each phase being incrementally less restrictive on business and individuals while protecting the public from COVID-19.

On April 20, Governor Evers in a press release, announced steps Wisconsin is taking to [increase COVID-19 testing capacity](#) throughout the state. Working with the Wisconsin Clinical Lab Network, the state has grown the number of labs performing COVID-19 tests from 8 one month ago to 36 labs.

On April 20, Wisconsin launched a new website for health care providers to [request COVID-19 testing supplies](#).

On April 21, Senate Majority Leader Fitzgerald and Assembly Speaker Vos filed suit against Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Palm [challenging the extension of the Safer at Home order through May 26](#). The lawsuit was filed directly in the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

On April 26, a plan for ensuring PPE distribution throughout Wisconsin was released by the State Emergency Operation Center. Going forward, PPE requests will go through county or tribal emergency management. All public and private health care and first responders are to exhaust potential sources, including regular supply chain and neighboring providers as well as implement CDC's PPE conservation guidance. Providers to make request through [Marathon County Emergency Management website](#).

A list of [Executive and Emergency Orders](#) and [Press Releases](#) available on WI Department of Health Services website.

## **Actions Marathon County is Taking**

Marathon County Health Department, Emergency Management, and County Administration stay informed on a daily basis. Local actions are guided by the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), [WI Department of Health Services](#), [WI Emergency Management](#), and the State of WI COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The following pandemic functions are being carried out.

### Contact Tracing and Surveillance

- Respond to reports of suspect and confirmed cases within the working day, conduct contact tracing for individuals tested positive for COVID-19 to identify close contacts
- Monitor testing capacity among three health care systems
- Followed-up on 759 negative, positive, or contacts to cases reported from March 1 to April 27, 2020, an increase of 152 since April 20.

### Community Mitigation

- Isolate residents tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantine close contacts, monitor residents who are isolated or quarantined on a daily basis
- Notify the Marathon County Sheriff's Office Dispatch of individuals tested positive for COVID-19 and their close contacts to protect law enforcement officers, first responders, and public safety workers

- Fielded 179 calls from residences and businesses on “Safer at Home” since March 25, having 16 calls during the week of April 20
- Continue to develop alternative isolate site plans for residents known or suspected to be infected with COVID-19 who cannot isolate safely at home in the Wausau and Marshfield area

#### Health Care System Response

- Participate in Closed Point of Dispensing training with health care systems to prepare for mass vaccine distribution
- Attend regional hospitals surge planning calls to monitor the need for establishing an alternative care site in Marathon County; monitor [daily snapshot hospital capabilities](#)
- Participate in weekly NCW-HERC (North Central Wisconsin Health Emergency Readiness Coalition) Board of Directors calls to keep abreast of response plans for hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, EMS
- Monitor long-term care facilities supply and staffing capabilities, and management of ill residents
- Respond to questions from general public on the need for testing and self-quarantine
- Expand mortuary services within Marathon County to health care systems, funeral homes
- Implement a county system to respond to PPE requests from allocations received from the state

#### Communication

- Provided information on Farmers to Market to farmers who sell, municipalities who coordinate the markets, and Hmong American Center
- Weekly radio program was recorded and broadcast on Hmong radio. Three new videos were created in Hmong and posted on the YouTube channel linked to Marathon County COVID-19 website: [Farmers Markets, Beware of Scams, and Safer at Home](#).
- Hispanic outreach included: sharing food distribution notice to restaurants employers and creating an ad for *Noticias* newspaper
- Provide accurate, timely and consistent information via [Marathon County Health Department website](#), posted the Badger Bounce Back information on the scrolling headline
- Information provided to community via [Marathon County Health Department Facebook](#)
  - o Posts: 27, Shares: 182, New Followers: 43 for week of April 20-26
  - o Posts: 189, Shares: 2,614, Followers: 3,401 since March 1
- Seven contacts with media, including four interviews for a total of forty-five (45) contacts with media, and nine press release since March 1
- Join weekly MCDEVCO municipal meeting to provide updates and field questions
- Field calls to 72 calls from the general public during the week of April 20

### What the Public Can Do

Stay at home. Limit the amount of time spent making essential trips to the store. Make essential trips no more than once a week.

Limit physical interactions to same people.

Keep at least 6 feet away from others and avoid direct physical contact.

Wash your hands frequently. Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.

Stay in touch over the phone with family and friends. Reach out and ask for help if you’re feeling overwhelmed. Call 211 to find a helping professional. Visit [Helping Wisconsin cope](#) during COVID-19.

Continue to contribute to [flattening the curve](#) as we prepare to reopen our businesses and communities.