

Marathon County Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
Situational Report May 11, 2020 (10:00 AM)  
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### 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.

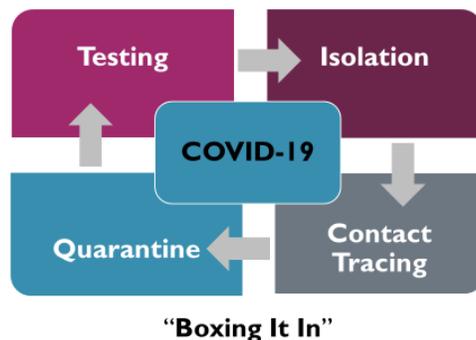
As of May 10, 2020,

- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports 1,300,696 cases in the United States, and 78,771 deaths.
- [WI Department of Health Services](#) reports 9,939 cases, 1,806 hospitalized (18%), and 398 deaths. Sixty-eight (68) counties have one or more case. [Maps of rates of cases and percentage of deaths by county](#) now available.
- [Marathon County](#), reports 24 cases 1 death. 1,106 residents have tested negative for COVID-19.

In the past week, we continue to work on furthering the conditions necessary to reopen businesses and our communities. To safely reopen, conditions that need to be in place include:

- Testing, where every individual who has symptoms of COVID-19 has access to a lab test
- Contact tracing capacity to control the spread of the virus and have everyone who is infected or exposed safely isolated or quarantined
- PPE and other supplies to protect health care and response workers
- Surge [capacity of our health care systems](#)
- State-wide public health data systems to track the spread of COVID-19

As a state we are moving from a strategy of “boxing in people” to “boxing in the virus”. In order to “box in the virus”, we need to be able to test every individual who has symptoms of COVID-19, isolate individuals positive for COVID-19, and identify close contacts and have them quarantined. Being able to “box in the virus” will be key in suppressing a surge in cases when reopening, ensuring our hospitals are not overrun.



Safer at Home, day 48, has helped to [flatten the curve](#), slowing the spread of COVID-19. The [Badger Bounce Back](#) plan released on April 20 provides a phased in roadmap for Wisconsin to reopen businesses, having [gating criteria \(metrics\)](#) to guide readiness to move from one phase to another.

## Major Developments

### U.S.

On May 8, CDC posted an [update on travel](#), recommending Americans to stay home as much as possible, and practice social distancing. The guidance includes recommendations for lodging, road trips, travel to visit family or friends, and travel to go camping.

On May 8, CDC posted an [update on symptoms](#) to watch for and self-checker to guide one when to seek appropriate medical care.

On May 8, CDC posted [COVIDView](#), A Weekly Surveillance Summary of the U.S. COVID-19 Activity. The report compares hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19 to influenza seasons.

CDC, posted [Testing for COVID-19](#), providing information on viral tests and antibody tests for COVID-19.

### Wisconsin

On May 3, Governor Evers and Secretary-designee Palm issued [Emergency Order 35: Relating to the Department of Health Services and Professional Services](#), ordering suspension of administrative rules for local health department to complete a community health assessment and plan every 5 years, eligibility for Medicaid programs, Foodshare Administration, Birth to Three Program and Children's Long-Term Support Waiver, Adult Long Term Care, Medicaid Benefit Management, Emergency Mental Health Services, Outpatient Mental Health Clinics, Community Support Programs, Community Substance Abuse Services, and Licensing and Practice of Certain Health Care Providers.

On May 4, Governor Evers Announces [Plan to Make Wisconsin One of the Top States in Testing Per Capita](#). Governor Evers shared that Wisconsin is prepared to provide 85,000 COVID-19 tests per week, ensuring that everyone in the state who needs a test receives a test. Four testing goals:

- Respond to every employer, corrections, and congregate care outbreak
- Test every nursing home resident and staff member
- Establish community testing programs for symptomatic individuals in target communities
- Ensure everyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms gets a test.

On May 5, Wisconsin Department of Health Services [released several new personal protective equipment \(PPE\) resource documents](#). One-pagers provide recommendations on how to use and conserve PPE for delivery drivers, home and community based service providers, recipients of home and community based services, in-home visits for social workers, and providers of transportation services.

On May 5, Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced [hospital metrics](#) for the Badger Bounce Back to move into Phase 1 of the plan.

On May 5, the [Supreme Court heard oral arguments](#) on the suit filed by the legislature against the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Palm regarding the extended Safer at Home Order.

On May 6, Governor Evers details [expanded COVID-19 Contact Tracing efforts](#). The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has trained an additional 401 contact tracer in the past two months, scaling up to support local health departments as COVID-testing expands.

On May 6, Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced an additional [\\$600 unemployment benefit](#) will be counted as income when determining eligibility for FoodShare and Caretaker Supplement programs but not be counted when determining eligibility for health care programs.

On May 7, Wisconsin Department of Health Services posted [graduation recommendations](#). Any graduation event held at this time should be virtual or non-contact, and should not physically convene groups of people together.

On May 7, Governor Evers announced the Wisconsin Department of Health Services launched a new [online resources for the public to access community testing sites](#) throughout the state. The searchable map, provides testing site locations, contact information, hours of operation, and guidance on how to schedule an appointment.

On May 7, Wisconsin Department of Health Services began to [post facility-wide investigations by county](#). A facility-wide wide public investigation is initiated when:

- A single case in long-term care facilities (nursing homes and assisted living facilities)
- Two or more cases in group housing facilities (corrections, homeless shelters, dormitories, group homes), health care facilities (hospitals, clinics, hospice, in-home care)
- Workplace (non-healthcare) settings of manufacturing and production facilities, distribution facilities, offices, and other indoor workplaces
- Other settings adult or child day care centers, restaurants, event spaces and religious settings

On May 7, the Office of Children’s Mental Health released a [new fact sheet](#) outlining what parents, community agencies and policy makers can do to support children’s mental well-being.

On May 8, Governor Evers announces [Best Practices and Safety Guidelines for Wisconsin Businesses](#) available on the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation’s (WEDC) website to keep workers, customers, and families safe while “turning the dial” toward reopening. The brochures include general guidelines for all businesses to follow as well as industry-specific advice.

On May 8, Governor Evers announced that 1,000 [ethnically diverse micro-businesses](#) have suffered losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be eligible to receive grants of \$2,000 each under a new state program. The \$2 million initiative is focused on supporting ethnically diverse micro-businesses that have not received SBA Paycheck Protection Program or state disaster relief.

On May 6, Governor Evers details [expanded COVID-19 Contact Tracing efforts](#). The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has trained an additional 401 contact tracer in the past two months, scaling up to support local health departments as COVID-testing expands.

On May 9, Wisconsin Department of Health Services provided updates on [evolving testing priorities for asymptomatic people and on new CDC recommendations for discontinuation of isolation](#). The recommended duration of isolation has been extended to be at least 10 days from the date symptoms first appeared.

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

## Actions Marathon County is Taking

The 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 health care systems
- Submitted pre-request to establish a National Guard community test site in Wausau, promoted community test sites occurring in Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point, Thorp
- Followed-up on 1396 negative, positive, or contacts to cases reported from March 1 to May 11, 2020, an increase of 361 since May 4.

#### 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 215 calls from residences and businesses on "Safer at Home" since March 25, having 14 calls during the week of May 4
- 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
- Begun to identify local public health metrics to monitor and inform decision making at a local, and multi-county level. Local public health metrics to support metrics in the [Badger Bounce Back](#) plan, the [COVID-19 Economic Recovery Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce](#) and the [Back to Business](#) plan developed by the Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce and Wisconsin's Chamber.

#### Health Care System Response

- 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
- Implement a county system to respond to PPE requests from allocations received from the state

#### Communication

- First ad was published in the *Noticias* newspaper and a second ad was created. Consulted community partners in regard to plans underway to train COVID-19 Hispanic outreach workers.
- Mailed information to the Amish Community on the Badger Bounce Back plan and case counts
- Recorded and broadcast weekly radio program on Hmong radio – topic, gardening
- Provide accurate, timely and consistent information via [Marathon County Health Department website](#) – updated webpage to have press releases listed on the right side of the page. Added new graphic with links to specific CDC and Wisconsin Department of Health Services and new topic, graduation to the scroll at the top.
- Information provided to community via [Marathon County Health Department Facebook](#)
  - o Posts: 27, Shares: 182, New Followers: 36 for week of May 4-10

- Posts: 249, Shares: 3272, Followers: 3,501 from March 1 to May 10
- Six contacts with the media, including three interviews for a total of forty-six (52) contacts with media, and nine press release since March 1
- Join the weekly MCDEVCO municipal meeting to provide updates and field questions
- Presented “Preparing Businesses & Consumers for Return to Commerce” webinar hosted by the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce
- Responded to 52 calls from the general public during the week of May 4

## 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. We all need support. 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.

Seek credible sources of information from the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) and the [State of WI Department of Health Services](#) to learn more about COVID-19.