

Marathon County Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
Situational Report May 18, 2020 (11:00 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.

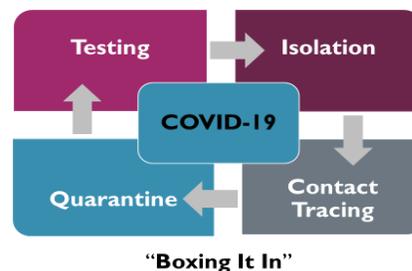
As of May 17, 2020,

- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports 1,467,065 cases in the United States, and 88,709 deaths.
- [WI Department of Health Services](#) reports 12,543 cases, 2,038 hospitalized (16%), and 453 deaths. Seventy (70) counties have one or more case. [Maps of rates of cases and percentage of deaths by county](#) now available.
- [Marathon County](#), reports 33 cases 1 death. 1,541 residents have tested negative for COVID-19.

On May 13, the Wisconsin State Supreme Court issued a decision invalidating the Safer at Home Order. The Safer at Home Order was put in place to control the spread of the virus, thereby preventing our hospitals from being overrun. During the seven weeks under the Safer at Home Order, health care systems along with Marathon County furthered conditions for communities to reopen safely, those conditions being:

- 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](#)
- Local data to support measurements in the [Badge Bounce Back Plan](#)

With the opening of businesses and our communities, containment and harm reduction strategies will be critical in controlling the transmission of the virus. Containment strategies are measures that “box in the virus”. Refer to diagram.



Harm reduction strategies are actions everyone can take to protect themselves. Actions include: maintain six (6) feet between people not in your household, stay home as much as possible, wash your hands frequently, avoid situations where you are unable to physical distance from others.

With Safer at Home Order no longer in place, Marathon County is asking individuals, families, businesses, non-profits, and other entities to carry out the recommended practices to stay safe provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. Refer to [Marathon County COVID-19 Order #1](#) for recommended safety practices. In the coming weeks to months, it is critical for individuals, families, businesses, non-

profits and other entities to continue to implement the recommended safety practices in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

Major Developments

U.S.

On May 15, CDC posted an update on Children and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): [Tips to keep children healthy while schools' out](#).

On May 16, CDC posted Recommendation Regarding the [Use of Cloth Face Coverings, Especially in Areas of Significant Community-Based Transmission](#).

Wisconsin

On May 11, Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Palm issued [Emergency Order 36: Interim Order to Turn the Dial](#), enabling in-person retail for up to five customers at a time, drive-in movies, and for all businesses to review the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation guidelines on safe business practices.

On May 11, midnight, the Executive Order #72, issued by Governor Evers on March 12, 2020 declaring a state of emergency in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic expired. Under sec. 323.10 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the state of emergency expires 60 days from the date of the declaration unless extended by joint resolution of the Legislature. Governor Evers and the Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Palm issued over thirty emergency orders during the course of the 60-day emergency. Any emergency order that was signed pursuant to sec. 323.10 expired with the declaration. A complete list of all [Executive and Emergency Orders related to COVID-19 impacted](#) available from the Wisconsin Legislative Council.

On May 13, Wisconsin Department of Health Services released the names of skilled nursing facilities (nursing homes) with active COVID-19 facility-wide public health investigations, having 38 nursing homes with active investigations. The information will be updated on the Department of Health Services [COVID-19 Investigations page](#) each Wednesday.

On May 13, the Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned the Safer at Home order. The Supreme Court ruled that Secretary-designee Palm did not have the singular authority to extend the Safer at Home order to May 26, stating the action required emergency rulemaking procedure. The Supreme Court decision did not apply to schools.

On May 14, Governor Evers approved a [statement of scope](#) developed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services beginning the rule making process to enact protections for Wisconsinites during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On May 15, Attorney General Josh Kaul issued of an interim attorney general opinion on the applicability of Wisconsin Legislature v. Palm to [local health officers' ability to issue local orders](#) responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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
- Host National Guard community testing event in partnership with Lincoln County Health Department to be held on May 19 from 11 am-7 pm at Northcentral Technical College
- Followed-up on 1870 negative, positive, or contacts to cases reported from March 1 to May 18, 2020, an increase of 474 since May 11.

Community Containment

- Isolate residents tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantine close contacts, monitor residents who are isolated
- 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 275 calls from residences and businesses on "Safer at Home" since March 25, having 60 calls during the week of May 11
- 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
- Further efforts to develop local public health metrics to monitor and inform decision making at a local level utilizing 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
- Carryout a county-wide system to respond to PPE requests from allocations received from the state

Communication

- Distributed Marathon County COVID-19 Order #1 to county and municipal officials, school administrators and school nurses; phone contact with the Plain Clothes community regarding the repeal of the Safer at Home Order
- Distributed flyers for the National Guard Community testing to six Hispanic grocery stores across Marathon County, county and municipal officials
- Presented basic information on COVID-19 to new Hispanic Liaisons working the Hmong American Center

- Provide accurate, timely and consistent information via [Marathon County Health Department website](#) – updated web page to include Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation logo as a resource and posted Marathon County COVID-19 Order #1
- Information provided to community via [Marathon County Health Department Facebook](#)
 - o Posts: 30, Shares: 491, New Followers: 205 for week of May 11-17
 - o Posts: 279, Shares: 3763, Followers: 3,706 from March 1 to May 18
- Ten contacts with the media, including eight interviews for a total of sixty (60) contacts with media, and eleven (11) press release since March 1. Three press releases week of May 11:
 - o [Wisconsin Supreme Court Ruling](#)
 - o [Marathon County COVID-19 Order #1](#)
 - o [National Guard Community Testing event on May 19](#)
- Join the weekly MCDEVCO municipal meeting to provide updates and field questions
- Responded to 115 calls from the general public during the week of May 11

What the Public Can Do

Stay at home as much as possible and avoid traveling outside your home community except for essentials and work-related travel.

Keep at least 6 feet away from others and avoid direct physical contact. Avoid group gatherings where physical distancing cannot occur.

Wash your hands frequently. Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Wear face masks or coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

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.

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.