

Marathon County Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
Situational Report May 25, 2020 (11:00 AM)
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What we Know

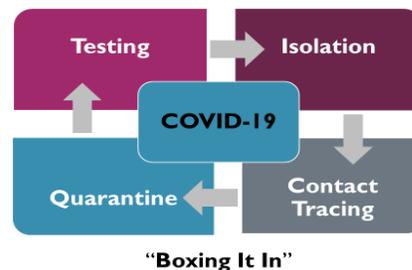
COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus strain that began spreading in people in December 2019. Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new respiratory virus. On March 11, 2020 the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

As of May 24, 2020,

- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports 1,622,114 cases in the United States, and 97,049 deaths.
- [WI Department of Health Services](#) reports 15,277 cases, 2,315 hospitalized (15%), and 510 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 41 cases 1 death. 2,180 residents have tested negative for COVID-19.

Marathon County, like many counties across Wisconsin, are counting on containment and harm reduction strategies to control the transmission of the virus in communities.

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.

As businesses and communities reopen, Marathon County is asking individuals, families, businesses, non-profits, and other entities to carry out the recommended practices 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.

Major Developments

U.S.

On May 22, CDC updated guidance [Considerations for Travelers](#). CDC advises because travel increases one’s chances of getting infected and spreading COVID-19, staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick. Persons thinking about traveling away from their local community is asked to review considerations and be prepared in the event they become sick while traveling.

On May 22, CDC releases [recommendations for communities of faith](#).

On May 23, CDC posts [interim guidance for communities of faith](#), offering general considerations to help communities of faith discern how best to practice their beliefs while keeping their staff and congregations safe.

On May 25, CDC posts guidance on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 when [visiting parks and recreational facilities](#).

Wisconsin

On May 18, Governor Evers announces the Wisconsin Department of Health Services [withdraws the statement of scope for emergency rule](#) for chapter DHS 145, relating to establishing protections to slow and contain the spread of COVID-19. The withdraw results in a patchwork of county regulations based on local conditions. To aid local and tribal health departments in developing COVID-19 orders for their jurisdictions, the State of Wisconsin developed a local template order for mass gathering ban and safe business practices.

On May 18, Governor Evers announces \$75 million in assistance for small businesses as part of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's [We're All In](#) initiative, a comprehensive effort to celebrate and help Wisconsin's small business get back on their feet and support best practices to keep businesses, consumers, employees and communities safe.

On May 19, Governor Evers announces a [\\$1 billion statewide effort to support COVID-19 testing, contact tracing](#), acquisition of needed supplies, emergency operations, and resources for local communities throughout Wisconsin. Recognizing that testing and contact tracing are essential to Wisconsin's efforts to contain the spread of the virus, the state has allocated approximately \$260 million for testing efforts and \$75 million for contact tracing.

On May 19, Wisconsin Department of Health Services releases Health Alert #10: [Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children](#) (MIS-C) potentially associated with COVID-19, calling on the prompt reporting of suspected cases to the state.

On May, 19, Wisconsin Department of Health Services posts interim guidance on large gatherings, to the DHS COVID-19 Avoid Illness page under "[Can I hold or should I go to a large gathering?](#)". Large gatherings includes any event where people are in sustained, close contact, including, but not limited to fairs, festivals, parades, and conferences. At this time, Wisconsin Department of Health Services does not advise large gatherings.

On May 20, Governor Evers announces [\\$25 million for Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program](#) for Wisconsinites who have experienced income loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Administered by the Department of Administration, the Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program will provide direct financial assistance for owed rent, security deposits, and wrap around services for program eligible individuals.

On May 20, Wisconsin Department of Health Services releases recommendations on [summer camps](#) and [youth sports](#). This guidance has been shared with the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association, Department of Tourism, and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

On May 20, Wisconsin Department of Health Services promotes [CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response](#) and the President's Plan for Opening America Up Again, updated on May 17, 2020.

On May 21, Governor Evers announces the [Wisconsin Farm Support Program](#), a \$50 million investment to provide direct payments to Wisconsin farmers in support of the agricultural sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a \$15 million Food Security initiative to combat hunger in Wisconsin.

On May 22, Wisconsin Department of Health Services issues COVID-19 Health Alert #11: [Access to Remdesivir](#) under emergency use authorization for Wisconsin hospitals.

On May 22, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) released a number of resources including:

- [Updated Guidelines for Farmers Market Managers, Vendors and Customers](#)
- [Recommendations for Reopening Pools and Water Attractions](#)
- [Recommendations for Lodging Establishments during COVID-19](#)
- [Recommendations for Opening Restaurants, Retail Businesses during COVID-19](#)
- [Guidelines for Operating Campgrounds during COVID-19](#)
- [Guidance for Recreational and Educational Camps during COVID-19](#)
- [Reopening Guidelines to Help Veterinary Practices](#)

On May 22, Wisconsin Department of Health Services provides [clarification regarding COVID-19 testing and visitation guidance for assisted living](#).

On May 22, Governor Evers announces [\\$100 million grant program for emergency medical services, home and community-based services, and long-term care providers such as skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities](#).

On May 22, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction releases [interim infection control and mitigation measures for schools](#) and [recommendations for packing-up, picking-up, and returning school items](#).

On May 22, Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced an expansion of the Resilient Wisconsin initiative. The initiative launched last month, provides strategies for Wisconsinites to reduce stress and build resiliency. The [Resilient Wisconsin Initiative pages](#) provide information and educational materials for frontline workers, people facing elevated risk during the pandemic like older adults and communities of color, and disrupted workers.

On May 24, Wisconsin Department of Health Services updated travel guidance on the [DHS COVID-19 Travel page](#). It is recommended that Wisconsinites cancel or postpone all travel, including travel within the state.

A list of [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
- Held a 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, 221 individuals tested
- Host a National Guard community testing event in Abbotsford on May 29 at the Abbotsford High School
- Followed-up on three facility outbreaks ensuring best practices to control further spread were in place since May 11
- Followed-up on 2,698 negative, positive, or contacts to cases reported from March 1 to May 25, 2020, an increase of 828 since May 18

Community Containment and Mitigation

- 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 293 calls from residences and businesses since March 25, having 18 calls during the week of May 18
- Continue to secure 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 and post local metrics to monitor and inform public health 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.
- Explore the development of a Marathon County Communicable Disease Ordinance. A county ordinance would support the Health Officer's authority under Wis. Stat. 252.03 to "prevent, suppress, and control communicable diseases" and "forbid public gatherings when deemed necessary to control outbreaks or epidemics" by providing enforcement powers if and when such an order was needed.

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

- Conducted a live Facebook chat with the editor of the Noticias paper. The live chat was recorded and posted on the Marathon County Health Department Facebook page.
- Placed a 3rd ad to Noticias paper, including contact number for Spanish speaking liaison, phone numbers for testing, and prevention measures
- Recorded safe use of parks and playgrounds on Hmong Radio
- Distributed printed materials to the Plain Clothes community regarding the repeal of Safer at Home Order
- Provide accurate, timely and consistent information via [Marathon County Health Department website](#)
 - o Posted new graphic that includes the number of cases recovered
- Information provided to community via [Marathon County Health Department Facebook](#)
 - o Posts: 32, Shares: 230, New Followers: 68 for week of May 18-24
 - o Posts: 311, Shares: 3993, Followers: 3,774 from March 1 to May 25
- Issued a press release on the National Guard Community testing event held on May 19, two contacts with the media, including eight interviews during the week of May 18; for a total of sixty (72) contacts/interviews with media, and twelve (12) press releases since March 1
- Join the weekly MCDEVCO municipal meeting to provide updates and field questions
- Responded to 105 calls from the general public during the week of May 18

What the Public Can Do

Limit travel to your home community – you are safer when you are home.

Get outside and enjoy the nicer weather.

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

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

Wear face masks or coverings in public settings where keep at least 6 feet away from others is difficult to maintain.

Interact with friends, family, and neighbors virtually.

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.