

Marathon County Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
Situational Report June 1, 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 31, 2020,

- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports 1,761,503 cases in the United States, and 103,700 deaths.
- [WI Department of Health Services](#) reports 18,403 cases, 2,583 hospitalized (14%), and 592 deaths. Seventy-two (72) counties have one or more case ([refer to mapped county-level data](#)).
- [Marathon County](#), reports 50 cases 1 death. 2,878 residents have tested negative for COVID-19.

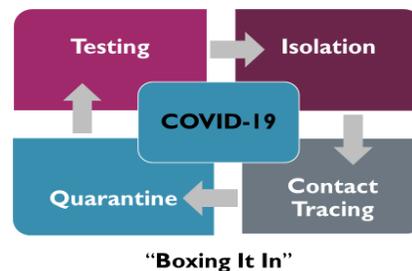
Marathon County and counties across Wisconsin are focusing efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 in our communities through harm reduction, surveillance, and “boxing the virus in”.

Harm reduction are actions one can take to be safe and protect themselves. To be safe it is recommended to maintain six (6) feet between people not in your household, wear masks if in the public and not able to physically distance, stay home as much as possible, wash your hands frequently, and to avoid situations where you are unable to physical distance from others. Marathon County is asking individuals, families, businesses, non-profits, and other entities to carry out recommended practices to be safe. Refer to [Marathon County COVID-19 Order #1](#) for recommended safety practices.

Surveillance includes the collection of data at a local, regional, and state level. The data is informing health departments how quickly the virus is spreading in communities, who is being infected, and the severity of the virus. Surveillance is important for two reasons: to learn more about the virus, and to monitor for early warning signs of a surge in cases.

“Boxing it in” is a containment strategy to control the spread of the virus and suppress a surge in cases. “Boxing” in the virus, requires health care systems and local health departments to be able to:

- Test every individual who has symptoms of COVID-19,
- Isolate individuals with COVID-19,
- Identify close contacts to the individual with COVID-19, and
- Quarantine individuals who had close contact to a COVID-19 case.



As health care systems have increased their capacity to test all those with symptoms of COVID-19, local health departments are increasing their capacity to investigate cases, conduct contact tracing and monitor individuals who are isolated and quarantined.

Major Developments

U.S.

On May 27, CDC posted guidance for [People with Developmental and Behavioral Disorders](#). CDC updated webpage on [People Who Need to Take Extra Precautions](#), listing conditions and how people can protect themselves.

On May 27, CDC posted [Funeral Guidance for Individuals and Families](#), providing guidance for individuals and families as they work with funeral directors, community and religious leaders, and others to plan and hold funeral services and visitations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On May 27, CDC provided [COVID-19 Forecasts: New Hospitalizations](#), forecasts estimates of the number of daily new COVID-19 hospitalizations over the next four weeks at a national and state level.

On May 27, CDC posted [Information for Sanitation and Wastewater Workers](#) on COVID-19. Recently, COVID-19 has been found in untreated wastewater. While data are limited, there is no information to date that anyone has become sick with COVID-19 because of exposure to wastewater. Standard practices associated with wastewater treatment plant operations should be sufficient to protect wastewater workers from the virus.

Wisconsin

On May 26, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services released [Guidance on Yard and Rummage Sales](#). Posted on the Community and Faith-Based webpage, it is recommended that individuals and communities cancel or postpone all in-person yard and rummage sales.

On May 27, Governor Evers announced the launch of the “[Routes to Recover: Local Government Aid Grants](#)” program, a \$200 million effort aimed at helping local leaders to address some of their most urgent and unique COVID-19 recovery needs.

On May 27, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services posted COVID-19 [Health Alert #12, CDC Investigating Possible Cases of COVID-19 Re-infection: Request for Information](#).

On May 28, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services releases [Recommendations for Public Pools, Splash Pads, and Waterparks](#). Posted on the Community and Faith-Based webpage, it is recommended at this time that all public pools, splash pads, and water parks remain closed due to the spread of COVID-19.

On May 28, Governor Evers announces [Even During COVID-19, America’s Dairyland Celebrates June Dairy Month](#).

On May 28, Governor Evers delivered the Democratic Radio Address [encouraging Wisconsinites to wear masks](#) in public to protect our friends, family, and neighbors.

On May 29, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced [\\$10 million in funding for health care providers serving the state’s most underserved populations](#). The funds, provided through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, will reimburse clinics for expenses stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Rural health clinics, tribal health clinics, community health centers, and free and low cost clinics are all eligible for this funding.

On May 30, Wisconsin Department of Health Services updated [COVID-19 County Data webpage](#) to include epi curve charts by county by using the drop down menu to see charts by county.

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
- Participate in a state/local health department community testing advisory group to outline strategies to support Wisconsin's testing goals of 85,000 COVID-19 tests per week. Marathon County's target is 1,981 tests per week. Testing goals include;
 - o Respond to every employer, corrections, and congregate care outbreak,
 - o Test every nursing home resident and staff member,
 - o Establish community testing programs for symptomatic individuals in target communities, and
 - o Ensure everyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms gets a test.
- Held a National Guard community testing event in partnership with Clark County Health Department on May 29 at the Abbotsford High School, having 260 individuals tested. The National Guard community testing event held on May 19 at the Northcentral Technical College resulted in 2 positives (1 Marathon County and 1 other county), from the 221 tested.
- Followed-up on three facility outbreaks ensuring best practices to control further spread were in place since May 11
- Followed-up on 3,400 negative, positive, or contacts to cases reported from March 1 to May 31, 2020, an increase of 702 since May 25

Community Containment and Mitigation

- Isolate residents tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantine close contacts, monitor residents who are isolated and assure they have a safe place to stay
- 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 309 calls from residences and businesses since March 25, having 16 calls during the week of May 25
- 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
- Participate in state/local health department data advisory group to identify and align metrics for COVID-19 across counties. 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.
- Met with representatives from the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce to gather input for the development of a "response matrix" for a county ordinance to control the spread of COVID-19. A county ordinance is meant to support the Health Officer's authority under Wis. Stat. 252.03 by providing enforcement powers if and when such an order would be 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

- Live Facebook promotion posted on Noticias of the May 29 National Guard community testing event held at the Abbotsford High School and distributed flyers to Abbyland Foods. Tapped interview with Father Tim from St. Bernard Parish, Abbotsford on COVID-19 testing and prevention measures. The interview was translated in Spanish.
- Provide accurate, timely and consistent information via [Marathon County Health Department website](#)
- Information provided to community via [Marathon County Health Department Facebook](#)
 - o Posts: 27, Shares: 325, New Followers: 17 for week of May 25-31
 - o Posts: 338, Shares: 4318, Followers: 3,845 from March 1 to May 31
- Issued two press release on the National Guard Community testing event held on May 29 and positive cases in Abbotsford, 11 contacts with the media, including 9 interviews during the week of May 25; for a total of sixty (81) contacts/interviews with media, and twelve (14) press releases since March 1
- Join the weekly MCDEVCO municipal meeting to provide updates and field questions on recommended practices from area municipalities
- Responded to 119 calls from the general public during the week of May 25

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.