

Marathon County Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situational Report June 8, 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 June 7, 2020,

- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports 1,920,904 cases in the United States, and 109,901 deaths.
- [WI Department of Health Services](#) reports 20,835 cases, 2,848 hospitalized (14%), and 647 deaths. Seventy-two (72) counties have one or more case ([refer to mapped county-level data](#)).
- [Marathon County](#), reports 64 cases, 10 hospitalized (16%), and 1 death. 3,918 residents have tested negative for COVID-19.

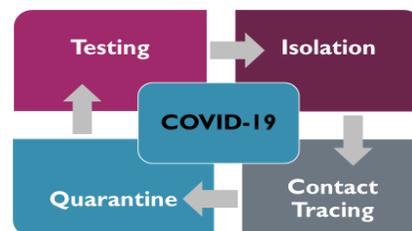
Marathon County and counties across Wisconsin continue to focus efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 through harm reduction strategies, surveillance activities, and “boxing the virus in” strategy.

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.



“Boxing It In”

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 June 4, CDC posted [Guidance on Handlers of Service and Therapy Animals](#). CDC is still learning about the virus that causes COVID-19, but it appears that the virus can spread from people to animals in some situations. CDC is aware of a small number of pets, including dogs and cats to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, mostly after close contact with people infected with COVID-19.

On June 5, CDC posted guidance on [Protect Yourself When Using Transportation](#). Guidance is for using public transit, rideshares and taxis, micro-mobility devices, and personal vehicles. Additional resources is posted for individuals where transportation is part of their job.

On June 5, CDC updated [Testing Data in the U.S.](#), including information on viral and antibody testing.

On June 5, CDC updated [Cases in the U.S.](#) site that includes state and county level data.

Wisconsin

On June 1, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services released Funding Opportunities for Local and Tribal Health Departments. COVID-19 funding opportunities:

- Update local Public Health Preparedness Pandemic Plans for COVID-19 to match Wisconsin's statewide "Box It In" Strategy consisting of testing, isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing.
- Local testing coordination to support staffing and resources to convene partners, and coordinate local testing efforts in four key areas: 1) health care system testing of individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, 2) congregate living/work settings, 3) outbreak response, and 4) community testing for underserved community members.
- Disease investigation, contact tracing, and contact monitoring.

On June 3, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services released definition of [COVID-19 probable cases](#), added to the COVID-19 Outbreak (Cases) webpage.

On June 3, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection releases [Guidance for You-Pick and Farm Stands](#).

On June 5, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced [Direct Payments to Long-Term Care Service Providers and Facilities, Emergency Medical Services, and Clinics affected by COVID-19 Pandemic](#). Applications are being accepted from specific types of health care service providers for funding from \$110 million allocated to the state under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The funds will be used to make payments to offset losses and expenditures these providers have experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 5, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services asked health departments to brief themselves on the [May 18, 2020, CMS published Nursing Home Reopening Recommendations for State and Local Officials QSO-20-30-NH](#) providing recommendations for state and local officials to help determine the level of mitigation needed to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in nursing homes.

On June 6, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services posted [Guidance on Beaches](#). The guidance is intended to support the enjoyment of beaches with information on how to reduce exposure to COVID-19.

On June 7, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services posted [Guidance for Adult Day Services and Programs](#), intended for adult day services, care centers, programs and adult pre-vocational programs.

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.
- Follow-up on four facility outbreaks ensuring best practices to control further spread are in place since May 11
- Followed-up on 4,516 negative, positive, or contacts to cases reported from March 1 to June 1, 2020, an increase of 1,116 since June 1

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 324 calls from residences and businesses since March 25, having 15 calls during the week of June 1
- 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.
- Presented the draft Marathon County COVID-19 Ordinance for review to the Marathon County Board of Health and Health & Human Services Committee. The purpose of a county ordinance is to support the Health Officer's authority under Wis. Stat. 252.03 to "prevent, suppress, and control communicable diseases" by providing enforcement powers if and when such an order would be needed.

Health Care System Response

- Attend regional hospitals planning calls to monitor the availability of health care resources for the COVID-19 response; refer to [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

- Mailed materials to the Plain Clothes population on symptoms, data, wearing masks, and guidance for large family households
- Placed 4th ad in the Noticias. Ad included information on how to contact Spanish community liaison, Interview with Father Tim, St. Bernard Parish, Abbotsford regarding results of community testing and importance of social distancing, and staying home if sick.
- Provide accurate, timely and consistent information via [Marathon County Health Department website](#)
- Information provided to community via [Marathon County Health Department Facebook](#)
 - o Posts: 26, Shares: 114, New Followers: 31 for week of June 1-7
 - o Posts: 364, Shares: 4432, Followers: 3,876 from March 1 to June 7
- Issued one press release on the results of the National Guard Community testing events held on May 19 and 29, 6 contacts with the media, including 5 interviews during the week of May 25; for a total of 86 contacts/interviews with media, and 15 press releases since March 1
- Join the weekly MCDEVCO municipal meeting to provide updates and field questions from area municipalities regarding recommended safety practices
- Responded to 89 calls from the general public during the week of June 1

What the Public Can Do

Travel in your home community – you are safer when you are at home.

Practice physical distancing, standing at least 6 feet apart from others. When physical distancing is difficult, wear a cloth face covering if you feel safe doing so. Avoid group gatherings where physical distancing is difficult to maintain.

Get outside and enjoy the nicer weather.

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

Interact with friends, family, and neighbors virtually.

Reach out for help if you're feeling overwhelmed. It's OK to ask for help. 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.