

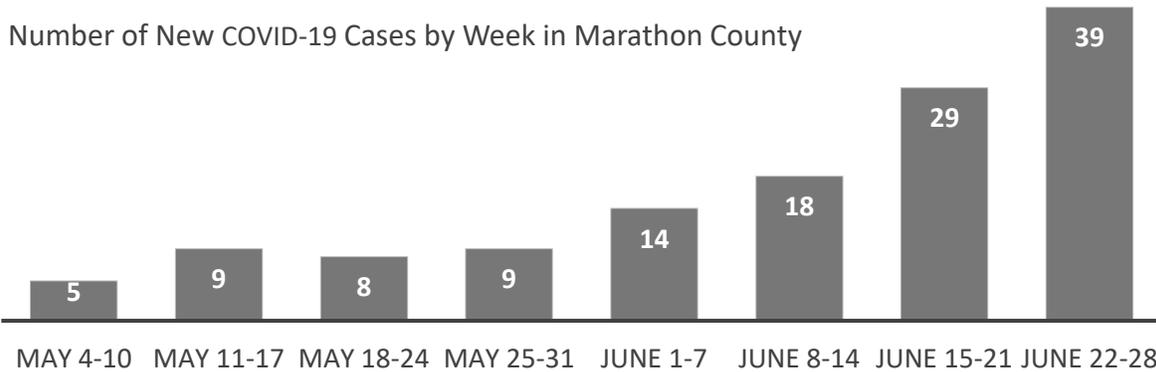
Marathon County Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 Situational Report June 29, 2020 (11:00 AM)
 Joan Theurer, Health Officer

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 28, 2020,

- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports 2,504,175 cases in the United States, and 125,484 deaths.
- [WI Department of Health Services](#) reports 27,743 cases, 3,393 ever hospitalized (12%), 79% recovered, and 777 deaths (3%). Refer to [state summary date and county level data](#).
- [Marathon County](#), reports 150 cases, 19 ever hospitalized (13%), 68 cases recovered, and 1 death. 6,404 residents have tested negative for COVID-19. Since May 25, cases are doubling every 2 weeks.



On June 23, Wisconsin Department of Health Services launched a new [data dashboard](#) to help inform individuals and local leaders of business, and other entities of the COVID-19 activity level by county. Counties are classified as high, medium, or low activity levels for disease spread based on case burden and trajectory. Case burden is the total number of cases per 100,000 residents in the past two weeks. Trajectory is the percent change in the number of cases in the past two weeks. Marathon County's COVID-19 activity level is high.

<p>COVID-19 Activity Level Marathon County 6/24/2020</p>	Low	<p>Individuals, businesses, and other entities can reduce their risk for exposure by practicing physically distancing and avoid large gatherings, wear a cloth face covering when in public, wash hands frequently, and stay home if sick.</p>
	Medium	
	High	

For Marathon County, 10-39 years old account for 56% of all cases, continuing to have 25% of cases among 20-29 year olds. For hospitalizations, all residents have been 30 years or older. As one gets older, risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases. Other factors that increase risk for severe illness are individuals with underlying medical conditions.

Strategies being carried out to control the spread of COVID-19 in Marathon County and counties across Wisconsin include: harm reduction behaviors, surveillance activities, and “boxing the virus in”. Being able to control the spread of COVID-19 will contribute to improving our economy.

Harm reduction behaviors are actions one can take to reduce their risk for being exposed to COVID-19:

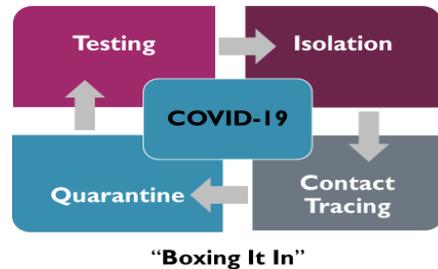
- Practice physical distancing (6’) and avoid large gatherings,
- Wear masks when in the public and unable to physically distance,
- Wash your hands frequently, and
- Stay home when sick.

Refer to [Marathon County COVID-19 Order #1](#) for additional actions individuals, families, businesses, and other entities can do to reduce the risk for COVID-19.

Surveillance is the collecting data to inform health departments how quickly the virus is spreading in communities, who is being infected, and the severity of the virus. Data is important for two reasons: to monitor for warning signs in a surge in cases, and to determine the level of risk in a county.

“Boxing it in” is a containment strategy to control the spread of the virus and suppress a surge in cases. To “Box in the virus”, health care providers and local health departments are:

- Testing every individual who has symptoms of COVID-19,
- Isolating individuals with COVID-19,
- Identifying close contacts to the individual with COVID-19, and
- Quarantine individuals who had close contact to a COVID-19 case.



Major Developments

U.S.

CDC updates for the week of June 22-28 CDC,

[Manufacturing Facility Assessment Toolkit](#)

[Recommendations for Election Polling Locations](#)

[COVID-19 Serology Surveillance](#)

[What Nail Salon Employees Need to Know about COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 Employer Information for Banks](#)

[What Bank Employees Need to Know about COVID-19](#)

[Youth Sports Program FAQs](#)

[Businesses and Workplaces](#)

[Daily Life and Coping](#)

[Pets and Other Animals](#)

[Hospitalization Forecasts](#)

[COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events](#)
[Forecasts of Total Deaths](#)
[Test for Past Infection \(Antibody Test\)](#)
[If you are Pregnant, Breastfeeding, or Caring for Young Children](#)
[People of Any Age with Underlying Medical Conditions](#)
[Suggestions for Youth and Summer Camps](#)
[Food and Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
[People Who Are at Increased Risk for Severe Illness](#)
[COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#)
[Cases & Death by County](#)
[Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)

Wisconsin

On June 22, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction published [Education Forward](#), a guidance document for Wisconsin districts and school leaders to use as they plan for a safe, efficient, equitable return to school for 2020-21 school year amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 23, in a press release, Governor Evers applauded the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) on their diligent response to the COVID-19 pandemic. June 21 marked the [100th day that the SEOC](#) has been activated, the longest continuous activation in Wisconsin history.

On June 24, Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) updates [Guidance for Summer Activities Questions & Answers](#).

On June 25, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services released resources on [Farm Culture, Stress, and Mental Health](#).

On June 26, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services released recommendations for [Safer Visits in Assisted Living Facilities](#). This guidance is intended for facilities with no known or suspected COVID-19 cases. The guidance includes preventive measures to reduce the chances of the introduction of COVID-19 into the facility, while mitigating the unintentional consequences of social isolation from family and loved ones.

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.
- 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. County level targets are based on the number of known cases in the community, the estimated number of

contacts, and estimated number of acute respiratory infections. Marathon County's target for June is 940 tests per week. Testing goals include;

- 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, and
 - Ensure everyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms gets a test.
- Form a multi-county collaboration with Portage and Wood counties along with area health care systems to develop a comprehensive and coordinated testing plan
 - Plan a community testing event in the Abbotsford area to be held in July (date TBD)
 - Secure and train 13 contracted employees to support contact tracing efforts since May 19
 - Follow-up on 9 active facility outbreaks to ensure best practices are in place to control further spread, having 12 facility outbreaks since April 7
 - Followed-up on 7,344 negative, positive, or contacts to cases reported from March 1- June 28, 2020, an increase of 700 since June 21. Negatives include imported negative tests from previous weeks.

Community Containment and Mitigation

- Isolated residents tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantine close contacts, monitor residents who are isolated and assure they have a safe place to stay
- Notified 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 360 calls from businesses or business related questions since March 25, having 16 calls during the week of June 22
- 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
- Furthered efforts to create Marathon County's COVID-19 data metrics to be published on the COVID-19 website
- Reached out to area public/private schools to inform them of the Health Department's role in supporting schools to reopen this fall in the safest way possible

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

Communication

- Outreach efforts to populations:
 - Hispanic – Recorded an interview with Noticias editor, having it posted to their social media sites. Food distribution was coordinated with partners in Abbotsford to distribute to Hispanic families; those impacted by COVID were outreached

- Hmong – Outreach to community leader to discuss informational needs to assure safe practices at Hmong funerals
- Plain Clothes – Mailed out information on recent data and how to prevent the spread
- Provide accurate, timely and consistent information via [Marathon County Health Department website](#)
- Information provided to community via [Marathon County Health Department Facebook](#)
 - Posts: 24, Shares: 173, New Followers: 47 for week of June 22-28
 - Posts: 443, Shares: 5,254, Followers: 4,120 from March 1 to June 28
- Issued 1 press release and conducted 15 interviews during the week of June 22; a total of 19 press releases and 121 interviews/contact with the media since March 1
- Join the weekly MCDEVCO municipal meeting to provide updates and field questions from area municipalities regarding recommended safety practices
- Responded to 95 calls from the general public during the week of June 22

What the Public Can Do

Practice physical distancing, staying 6 feet from others.

Wear a cloth face covering when out in public and unable to physically distance, if you feel safe doing so.

When gathering with other people limit the number of people. Avoid group gatherings where physical distancing is hard to maintain.

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

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.