

Marathon County Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situational Report July 6, 2020 (11:00 AM)

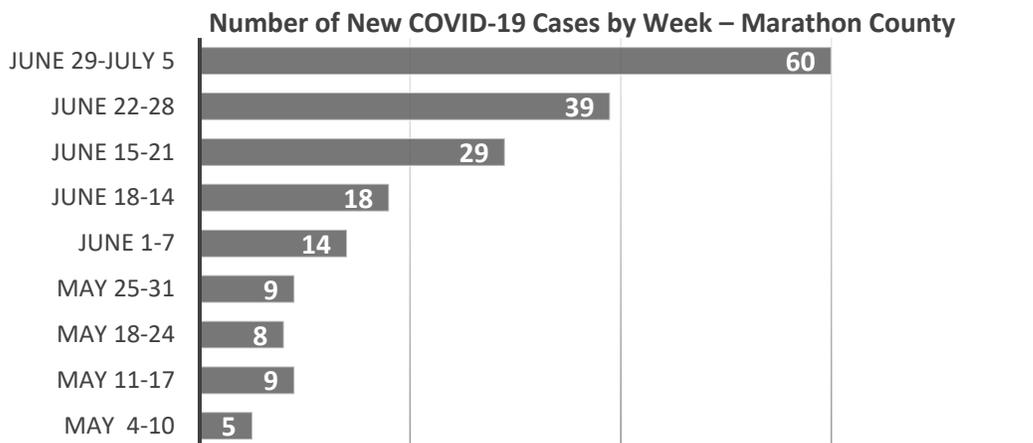
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What we Know

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 July 5, 2020,

- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports 2,841,906 cases in the United States, and 129,576 deaths.
- [WI Department of Health Services](#) reports 31,577 cases, 3,586 ever hospitalized (11%), 79% recovered, and 796 deaths (2.5%). Refer to [state summary date and county level data](#).
- [Marathon County](#), reports 210 cases, 21 ever hospitalized (10%), 56% recovered, and 1 death. 7,264 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.

**COVID-19
Activity Level
Marathon County
7/1/2020**

Low
Medium
High

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.

For Marathon County, 10-39 years old account for 58% of all cases, with 27% of all 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:

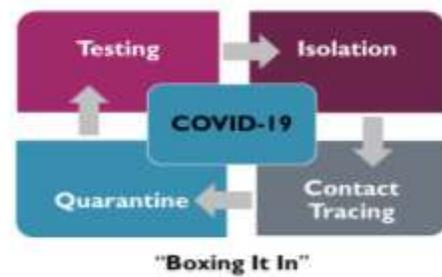
- Practice physical distancing (6’) and avoid large gatherings,
- Wear masks when in the public and unable to physically distance,
- Wash your hands frequently, and
- Stay home when sick.

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 29-July 5,

[Living in or Visiting Retirement Communities or Independent Living Facilities](#)

[Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in a Variety of Settings throughout Your Community](#)

[Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities](#)

[Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals](#)

[Test for Past Infection \(Antibody Test\)](#)

[Interim Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing](#)

[Interim Considerations for K-12 School Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing](#)

[COVID-19 Recommendations for Pet Stores, Pet Distributors, and Pet Breeding Facilities](#)

[Considerations for Restaurants and Bars](#)

[Daily Life and Coping](#)

[Support for Teens and Young Adults](#)

[Helping Children Cope](#)
[Visiting Beaches and Pools](#)
[Coping with Stress](#)
[Hospitalization Forecasts](#)
[Sick Parents and Caregivers](#)
[Interim Considerations for Health Departments for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Homeless Shelters and Encampments](#)
[Travel](#)
[Testing Guidelines for Nursing Homes](#)
[COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#)
[Forecasts of Total Deaths](#)
[Interim Guidance on Testing Healthcare Personnel for SARS-CoV-2](#)
[Playing Youth Sports](#)
[Living in Shared Housing](#)
[SARS-CoV-2 Testing Strategy: Considerations for Non-Healthcare Workplaces](#)
[Businesses and Workplaces](#)

Wisconsin

On June 29, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction posted recommendations for Assisted Living Facilities [regarding safer visits to residents](#) during COVID-19. This guidance is intended for facilities with no known or suspected COVID-19 cases to mitigate the unintentional consequences of social isolation from family and loved ones.

On June 29, Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) released [Sport Specific Summer Guide](#).

On June 29, Wisconsin State Patrol released [school bus COVID-19 safety guidance](#).

On June 30, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation released report [assessing ongoing economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic](#), outlines recovery priorities.

On July 1, Wisconsin Department of Health Services posted guidance related to public bathrooms. Guidance for the [general public](#) is posted on the COVID-19 Avoid Illness page. Guidance for [facility managers](#) is posted on the COVID-19 Community page.

On July 1, Wisconsin Department of Health Services [updated travel guidance](#) to include extra planning considerations to account for quarantine/isolation requirements, limit group sizes.

On July 1, Wisconsin Public Radio post [half of Wisconsin counties have high COVID-19 activity level](#); state reports highest 7 day average of new COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic.

On July 1, Appleton Post-Crescent published article, [Coronavirus is spreading so fast among Wisconsin 20-somethings](#) that the CDC came to investigate. It is protests? Bars? Here's what we know.

On July 1, Wisconsin Department of Health Services [revised recommendations for who should get tested](#) for COVID-19.

- Individuals experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19
- Individuals who have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19, regardless of symptoms
- Asymptomatic individuals who have instructed by a public health agency or health care provider to get a COVID-19 test for the purpose of preventing the spread of infection

On July 2, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services issued a press release [urging residents to stay home ahead of the July 4th Weekend](#). Wisconsin has seen a recent surge in cases, nearly 20% of total COVID-19 cases in Wisconsin tested positive in the last two weeks. This spike in cases is driven in part by an increase in infections among younger people, and contact tracing by some local health departments has revealed that many of these cases can be traced to bars.

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 confirmed cases within 24 hours. 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 develop 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 July is 1,000 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.
- Form a multi-county collaboration with Portage and Wood counties along with area health care systems to develop a comprehensive and coordinated testing plan
- Hold a community testing event on July 9 and 10, at the parking lot of the Dollar General in Abbotsford
- Secure and train 14 contracted employees to support contact tracing efforts since May 19
- Follow-up on 11 active facility outbreaks to ensure best practices are in place to control further spread, having 15 facility outbreaks since April 7
- Followed-up on 8,488 negative, positive, or contacts to cases reported from March 1- July 5, 2020, an increase of 1,144 since June 28. Negatives include imported negative tests from previous weeks and underrepresent the total number of negative tests as of July 5.

Community Containment and Mitigation

- Isolated residents tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantine close contacts, monitor residents who are isolated or quarantined 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 376 calls from businesses or business related questions since March 25, having 16 calls during the week of June 28

- 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 create Marathon County's COVID-19 data metrics to be published on the COVID-19 website
- Provide recommendations to area WIAA directors on summer sports and to public/private schools regarding Department of Public Instruction (DPI) reopen guidance for the fall

Health Care System Response

- Monitor regional 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:
 - o Hispanic – Information distributed to Mexican grocers and bars on recommended practices to reduce one's risk. Place ad no. 6 for the Noticias paper.
 - o Hmong – Flyer for businesses translated into Hmong
 - o Plain Clothes – Mailed weekly data and how wearing a masks lessons exposure to COVID
- Provide accurate, timely and consistent information via [Marathon County Health Department website](#)
- Information provided to community via [Marathon County Health Department Facebook](#)
 - o Posts: 21, Shares: 204, New Followers: 39 for week of June 28-July 5
 - o Posts: 464, Shares: 5,458, Followers: 4,159 from March 1 to July 5
- Issued 2 press release, conducted 6 interviews, and 9 media contacts during the week of June 28; a total of 21 press releases and 127 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 89 calls from the general public during the week of June 28

What the Public Can Do

Practice physical distancing, staying 6 feet from others. When gathering with other people limit the number of people. Avoid group gatherings where physical distancing is hard to maintain.

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

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.

