

Marathon County Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 Situational Report July 13, 2020 (10:00 AM)
 Joan Theurer, Health Officer

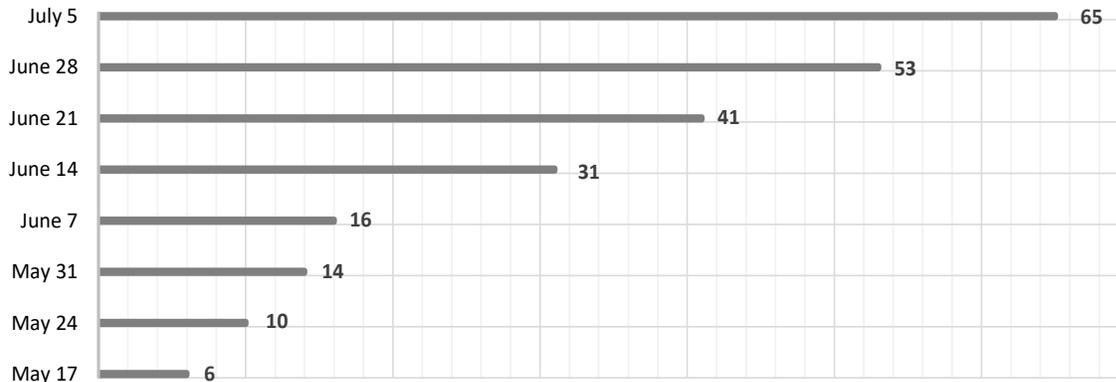
What we Know

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.

For the week of ending on July 11,

- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports 3,106,931 cases in the United States, and 132,855 deaths.
- [WI Department of Health Services](#) reports 35,679 cases, 3,797 ever hospitalized (10.6%), 78% recovered, and 821 deaths (2.3%). Refer to [state summary date and county level data](#).
- [Marathon County](#), reports 268 cases, 24 ever hospitalized (9%), 55% recovered, and 1 death. 8,231 residents have tested negative for COVID-19.

Number of New Cases in Marathon County by Week



Note: Data is being provided from Sunday thru Saturday in keeping with national reporting.

Beginning on June 23, the 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 remains high since June 24.

**COVID-19
 Activity Level
 Marathon County
 7/8/2020**

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 57% of all cases, with 28% 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:

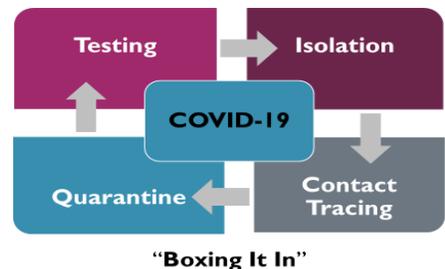
- Practice physical distancing (6’) and avoid large gatherings,
- Wear masks when in the public and unable to physically distance,
- Wash your hands frequently, and
- Stay home when sick.

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.



The capacity of local and tribal health departments to do contact tracing is important in controlling the spread of COVID-19 in communities. In light of the increase in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks, the Marathon County Health Department currently does not have the capacity to do daily calls to assure individuals remain isolated and quarantined. The Health Department’s priority at this time is to contact individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 to identify close contacts within 24 hours of receiving a lab report and to notify close contacts within 24-48 hours.

Major Developments

U.S.

CDC updates for the week of July 5-11,

[Social Distancing](#)

[About Serology Surveillance](#)

[How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings](#)

[Funeral Home Workers](#)

[Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#)
[Interim Considerations for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Correctional and Detention Facilities](#)
[Quarantine If You Might Be Sick](#)
[COVID-19 Questions and Answers: For People Who Use Drugs or Have Substance Use Disorder](#)
[What COVID-19 Seroprevalence Surveys Can Tell Us](#)
[Correctional and Detention Facilities](#)
[Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers](#)
[Meat and Poultry Processing Facility Assessment Toolkit](#)
[Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personal During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)
[Forecasts of Total Deaths](#)
[Hospitalization Forecasts](#)
[Data on COVID-19 during Pregnancy](#)
[COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#)
[Cleaning and Disinfection of Households](#)
[Toolkit for Parks & Recreational Facilities](#)
[Young Adults: 15 to 21](#)
[Toolkit for Youth Sports](#)
[Toolkit for Shared and Congregate Housing](#)
[Toolkit for K-12 Schools](#)
[Toolkit of General Public](#)
[Toolkit for Domestic Travelers](#)
[Toolkit for Community and Faith-Based Organizations](#)
[Toolkit for Businesses and Workplaces](#)
[Childcare Programs and Summer Camps](#)
[General Business Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Wisconsin

On July 3, PBS Wisconsin posted State Epidemiologist Dr. Ryan Westergaard talks about the [recent spike in the virus among people](#) and stresses evidence-based prevention strategies

On July 5, Wisconsin Public Radio story on [more than 10 percent of COVID-19 tests come back positive](#) for second day in a row

On July 6, the [American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, and American Nurses Association urges the American public to take the simple steps](#) to stop the spread of the virus: wear a face mask, maintain physical distance, and wash hands.

On July 6, the Department of Health Services issued a memo on certified mental health and substance use treatment providers regarding treatment services impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in regards to [coverage of medical assistance services provided by Telehealth](#).

On July 7, Governor Evers announced additional [efforts to distribute personal protective equipment \(PPE\) to schools, food processors, and businesses](#) across the state.

On July 7, the Department of Health Services issued [retesting guidance](#) and [onsite hair salons](#) and barber services for long-term care facilities.

On July 9, Governor Evers requires [all state employees to wear face coverings](#) at all times inside state buildings.

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 and conduct contact tracing to identify close contacts within 24 hours. Notify close contacts within 48 hours.
- 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
- Held a National Guard community testing event on July 9 and 10 in Abbotsford, having 411 individuals tested
- Secure and train 16 contracted employees to support contact tracing efforts since May 19
- Follow-up on 15 active facility outbreaks to ensure best practices are in place to control further spread, having 20 facility outbreaks since April 7
- Followed-up on 9,653 negative, positive, or contacts to cases reported from March 1- July 12, 2020, an increase of 1,165 since July 5. Negatives include imported negative tests from previous weeks and underrepresent the total number of negative tests as of July 12.

Community Containment and Mitigation

- Isolated residents tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantine close contacts and assure they have a safe place to stay. Monitor residents who are isolated.
- Notified the Marathon County Sheriff's Office Dispatch of individuals tested positive for COVID-19 to protect law enforcement officers, first responders, and public safety workers
- Fielded 388 calls from businesses or business related questions since March 25, having 12 calls during the week of July 5
- 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
- Finalize Marathon County's COVID-19 data metrics to be published on the COVID-19 website during the week of July 12
- 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 on the testing and the National Guard community testing event held on July 9 and 10 was distributed in Spanish in the Abbotsford area. Food drive was conducted in cooperation with St. Bernard Church, Wisconsin Institute of Public Policy and Service (WIPPS), United Way of Marathon County, and the Neighbor’s Place.
 - o Hmong – Flyer on community testing events shared with Hmong American Center
 - o Plain Clothes – Mailed weekly data and infographics on the 3W’s (Watch your Distance, Wear a Mask, Wash your Hands)
- 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: 234, New Followers: 131 for week of July 6-12
 - o Posts: 485, Shares: 5,692, Followers: 4,290 from March 1 to July 12
- Issued 2 press release, conducted 5 interviews, and 3 media contacts during the week of July 6; 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 179 calls from the general public during the week of July 6

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.