

Marathon County Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 Situational Report July 20, 2020 (10:00 AM)
 Joan Theurer, Health Officer

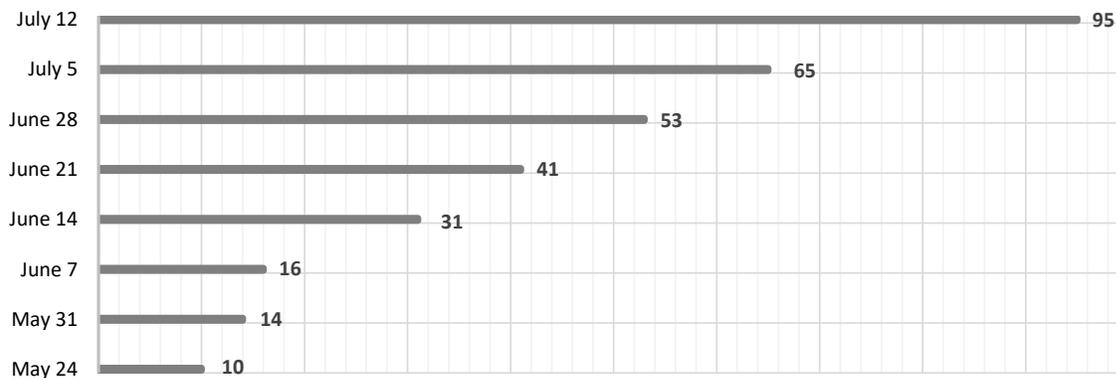
What we Know

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 18,

- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports 3,630,587 cases in the United States, and 138,782 deaths.
- [WI Department of Health Services](#) reports 41,485 cases, 4,082 (9.8%) ever hospitalized, 32,004 (77%) recovered, and 843 (2%) deaths. Refer to [state summary date and county level data](#).
- [Marathon County](#), reports 363 cases, 28 (7.7%) ever hospitalized, 195 (56%) recovered, and 2 deaths. 9,466 residents have tested negative for COVID-19.

Number of New Cases in Marathon County by Week



Marathon County’s [COVID-19 activity level](#) remains high since June 24, having a 46% increase in cases in the past week.

<p>COVID-19 Activity Level Marathon County 7/15/2020</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 54% of all cases, with 28% of all cases among 20-29 year olds. For hospitalizations, all residents have been 20 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.

On July 16, Marathon County Health Department published [COVID-19 Dashboard](#). The Dashboard provides a timeline of the daily positive cases and negative tests; demographic data in terms of age, gender, race/ethnicity; and the number of cases by census tract.

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”. Controlling the spread of COVID-19 will keep business open and enabling schools to open in the fall.

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

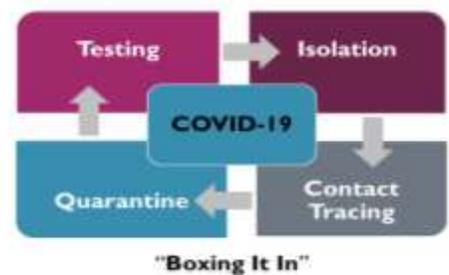
- Watch your physical distance around others and avoid large gatherings,
- Wear masks when in the public and unable to physically distance,
- Wash your hands frequently, and
- Stay home when sick.

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 Health Department’s priority 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 48 hours.

Major Developments

U.S.

CDC updates for the week of July 12-18,

[Event Planning and COVID-19: Questions and Answers](#)

[Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Correctional and Detention Facilities](#)

[CDC calls on Americans to wear masks to prevent COVID-19 spread](#)

[Social Distancing](#)

[Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Systems and 911 Public Safety](#)

[Answering Points \(PSAPs\) for COVID-19 in the United States](#)

[Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)

[Forecasts for Total Deaths](#)
[Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19](#)
[Hospitalization Forecasts](#)
[Infographic: Tracking MIS-C: Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in U.S. Children](#)
[Considerations for Wearing Cloth Face Coverings](#)
[When to wear gloves](#)
[Quarantine If You Might Be Sick](#)
[Toolkit for Older Adults and People at Higher Risk](#)
[CDC Director Dr. Robert R. Redfield and HHS Chief Information Officer Jose Arrieta Remarks on HHS Protect](#)
[Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19](#)
[Evidence used to update the list of underlying medical conditions that increase a person’s risk of severe illness from COVID-19](#)
[People of Any Age with Underlying Medical Conditions](#)
[Testing Guidelines for Nursing Homes](#)
[Overview of Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#)
[COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#)
[Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in Healthcare Settings](#)
[Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Veterinary Clinics Treating Companion Animals During the COVID-19 Response](#)
[Considerations for Restaurants and Bars](#)
[Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID-19](#)
[Interim Guidance on Testing Healthcare Personnel for SARS-CoV-2](#)
[Isolate If You Are Sick](#)
[Toolkit for Parks & Recreational Facilities](#)
[People with Disabilities](#)
[Toolkit for Businesses and Workplaces](#)

Wisconsin

July 12, the Wisconsin State Journal published an article, [With recent uptick of COVID-19 cases in Wisconsin, response measures will likely limited to local orders](#)

On July 13, the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs release, [New technology increases efficiency at Wisconsin National Guard COVID-19 testing sites](#)

On July 14, the Wisconsin Elections Commission determine that Special Voting Deputies will not be dispatched to care facilities to administer voting for the August 11, 2020, Partisan Primary and November 3, 2020, General Election. [Residents of care facilities normally served by Special Voting Deputies will instead be mailed absentee ballots for each election.](#)

On July 14, WDJT-Milwaukee release, [State leaders say Wisconsin needs to ‘double down’ on social distancing, face coverings](#)

On July 15, the Wisconsin State Journal publish, [DHS: COVID-19 case increase due to ‘significant community spread’, not more testing](#)

On July 15, Wisconsin Public Radio publish, [59 Counties Have ‘High’ COVID-19 Activity Levels, As State Sees 821 New Cases Wednesday](#)

On July 17, the Department of Health Services added guidance regarding [outdoor visitation at nursing homes](#) to the COVID-19 Long-Term Care Facilities and Services webpage

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.
- Develop 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 and 31 individuals test positive for COVID-19. The event was supported by Family Health/La Clinica.
- Follow-up on 19 active facility outbreaks to ensure best practices are in place to control further spread, having 26 facility outbreaks since April 7
- Followed-up on 11,154 negative, positive, or contacts to cases reported from March 1- July 19, 2020, an increase of 1,501 since July 19. Negatives include imported negative tests from previous weeks and underrepresent the total number of negative tests as of July 19.
- Secured and trained 16 contracted employees to support contact tracing efforts since May 19

Community Containment and Mitigation

- Isolate residents tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantine close contacts and assure they have a safe place to stay. Monitor residents who are isolated.
- Notify 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
- Field 396 calls from businesses or business related questions since March 25, having 8 calls during the week of July 12
- Maintain 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
- 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

- Met with Executive Director of the Wausau Area Chamber of Commerce to learn more about initiatives underway and opportunities to partner with Marathon County to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including the [Consumer Safety Pledge](#)

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 – Conducted food distribution in Abbotsford
 - o Hmong – Released information on funerals through radio program and other targeted outreach
 - o Plain Clothes – Mailed information on weddings and weekly data summary
- Provide accurate, timely and consistent information via [Marathon County Health Department website](#)
 - o Launched Marathon County’s [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to inform residents of the local impact of COVID-19. Dashboard includes activity level, demographics, and census track data
- Information provided to community via [Marathon County Health Department Facebook](#)
 - o Posts: 21, Shares: 193, New Followers: 113 for week of July 13-19
 - o Posts: 506, Shares: 5,885, Followers: 4,403 from March 1 to July 19
- Issued 2 press release, conducted 7 interviews, and 5 media contacts during the week of July 13; a total of 26 press releases and 139 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 188 calls from the general public during the week of July 13

What the Public Can Do

Watch your distance, stay 6 feet from others who don’t live in your household. 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 when around people who don’t live in your household, especially when social distancing is difficult 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.