

Marathon County Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 Situational Report August 3, 2020 (10:00 AM)
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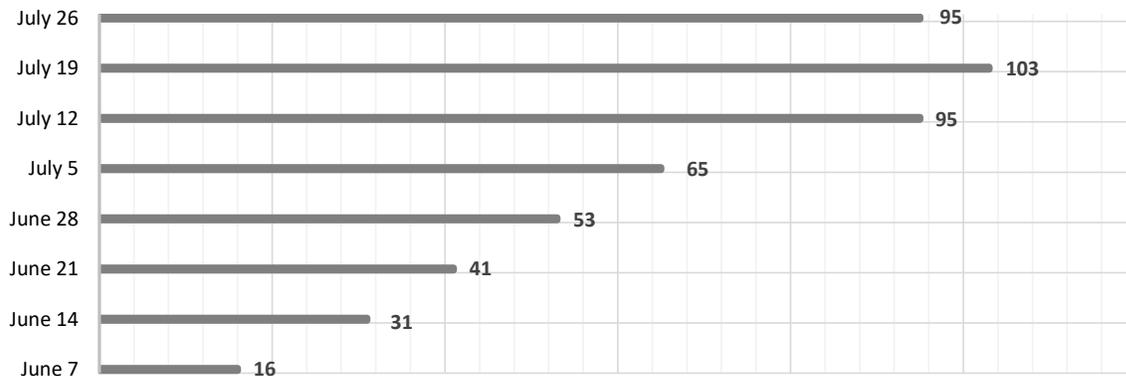
What we Know

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.

For the week of ending on August 1,

- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports 4,542,579 cases in the United States, and 152,870 deaths.
- [WI Department of Health Services](#) reports 54,002 cases, 4,687 (8.7%) ever hospitalized, 43,284 (80.2%) recovered, and 947 (1.8%) deaths. Refer to [state summary date and county level data](#).
- [Marathon County](#), reports 561 cases, 46 (8%) ever hospitalized, 364 (67%) recovered, and 6 deaths (1%). 11,754 residents have tested negative for COVID-19. Refer to [Marathon County COVID-19 Dashboard](#). 20-39 years old account for 40% of all cases, with 24% 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.

Number of New Cases in Marathon County by Week



Marathon County’s [COVID-19 activity level](#) has been high as of June 24. Since Marathon County’s first case on March 20, 52% of the total number of cases have occurred in the past 3 weeks.

<p>COVID-19 Activity Level Marathon County 7/29/2020</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 indoors and in public, wash hands frequently, and stay home if sick.</p>
	Medium	
	High	

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 everyone 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.

On July 30, 2020, Governor Evers issued Emergency Order #1 [“Relating to preventing the spread of COVID-19 by requiring coverings in certain situations.”](#) COVID-19 has significantly increased in Wisconsin as more people return to work and have more interactions in public. Wearing face coverings is a way to slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus. 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 for exposure 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 working to:

- Test every individual who has symptoms of COVID-19,
- Isolate individuals with COVID-19,
- Find everyone who had close contact to infected people, and
- Quarantine all close contacts.



The capacity of health departments to do contact tracing is important to control the spread of COVID-19 in communities. In light of the increase in cases in July, the Health Department’s priority is to contact individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 to identify close contacts and to notify their close contacts.

Major Developments

U.S.

CDC updates for the week of July 26,

- [Isolate If You Are Sick](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- [Businesses and Workplaces](#)
- [What to Know About HIV and COVID-19](#)
- [Hospitalization Forecasts](#)
- [Visiting Parks and Recreational Facility](#)
- [People with Certain Medical Conditions](#)
- [Hiring In-home services or repairs](#)

[Deciding to Go Out](#)
[Going Out](#)
[Prevent Getting Sick](#)
[Rural Communities](#)
[Toolkit for Correctional and Detention Facilities](#)
[Living in Shared Housing](#)
[Older Adults](#)
[Donate Blood Plasma and Help Save Lives](#)
[COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#)
[Forecasts of Total Deaths](#)
[Colleges, Universities, and Higher Learning](#)
[Considerations for Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities](#)
[Toolkit for People Experiencing Homelessness](#)
[Study highlights importance of CDC mitigation strategies](#)
[Interim Guidelines for COVID-19 Antibody Testing](#)
[Interim Guidance for Use of Pooling Procedures in SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic, Screening, and Surveillance Testing](#)
[Preparing K-12 School Administrators for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020](#)

On July 24, the CDC MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report) released [Symptom Duration and Risk Factors for Delayed Return to Usual Health Among Outpatients with COVID-19](#) in a Multistate Health Care System Network – United States, March-June 2020

On July 29, the Kaiser Family Foundation released issue brief: [What Do We Know About Children and Coronavirus Transmission?](#) The brief examines the latest available data and evidence about the issues around COVID-19 and children and risks posed for reopening classrooms where there is already widespread community transmission.

On July 30, the New York Times release [Children May Carry Coronavirus at High Levels, Study Finds](#).

Wisconsin

On July 27, [Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference \(WIAC\) announced conference seasons and championships](#) in the sports of football, women’s soccer, women’s volleyball, and men’s and women’s cross country are to be cancelled for the 2020-21 academic year.

On July 28, Chicago Mayor Lightfoot confirms [Wisconsin will be added to COVID-19 travel order list](#).

On July 29, WI Department of Health Services [updated release from isolation guidelines](#) to reflect the updated [CDC interim guidance](#) for discontinuation of isolation for persons with COVID-19 not in healthcare settings.

On July 30, Governor Evers issues Executive Order [declaring Public Health Emergency and requiring face coverings statewide](#). The order is effective at 12:01 a.m. on August 1 and expires on September 28, 2020 or by a subsequent superseding order. Executive Orders, #82 declaring a public health emergency is available [here](#), Emergency Order #1 requiring face coverings statewide is available [here](#), along with [FAQ](#) requirements for face coverings.

On July 30, Wisconsin [Attorney General Josh Kaul released statement in support of Governor Evers statewide mask requirement](#), “Increasing the use of masks means fewer COVID-19 cases, more lives

saved, a faster economic recovery, and less interruptions of schools. This new policy is a significant, positive step in the fights against the coronavirus”.

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 August 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.
- Further the development of a comprehensive and coordinated testing plan with area health care systems and the Portage Health & Human Services and Wood County Health Department
- Host a National Guard community testing event on Friday, August 7, from 8-5 PM at Northcentral Technical College, Wausau
- Follow-up on 18 active facility outbreaks to ensure best practices are in place to control further spread, having 32 facility outbreaks since April 7
- Followed-up on 14,133 negative, positive, or contacts to cases reported from March 1- August 2, 2020, an increase of 1,461 in the past week. Negatives include imported negative tests from the previous week and underrepresent the total number of negative tests as of August 2
- Train and supervise 21 contracted employees who are carrying out contact tracing efforts

Community Containment and Mitigation

- Isolate residents tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantine close contacts and assure they have a safe place to stay.
- Field 417 calls from businesses or business related questions since March 25, having 11 calls during the week of July 26
- 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 public/private schools regarding Department of Public Instruction (DPI) reopen guidance for the fall
- Promote the Wausau Area Chamber of Commerce [Consumer Safety Pledge](#) initiative

Health Care System Response

- Monitor regional availability of health care resources for the COVID-19 response; refer to [daily snapshot hospital capabilities](#)
- Participate in the NCW-HERC (North Central Wisconsin Health Emergency Readiness Coalition) hospital updates to stay abreast of health care system capacity in regards to testing and caring for patients
- 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 – Supported the food distribution in Abbotsford
 - o Hmong – Recorded a radio segment on symptoms and diagnosis of COVID
 - o Plain Clothes – Mailed guidance on traveling, contact tracing and isolating at home, and information on daily case count and demographic
- Provide accurate, timely and consistent information via [Marathon County Health Department website](#)
- Inform the community via [Marathon County Health Department Facebook](#)
 - o Posts: 26, Shares: 227, New Followers: 89 for week of July 27
 - o Posts: 555, Shares: 6,346, Followers: 4,584 since March 1
- Issued 1 press release, conducted 8 interviews, and 1 media contacts during the week of July 27; a total of 29 press releases and 153 interviews/contact with the media since March 1
- Responded to 181 calls from the general public during the week of July 27

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 indoors or enclosed space, other than at a private residence.

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.