

Marathon County Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 Situational Report September 14, 2020 (10:00 AM)
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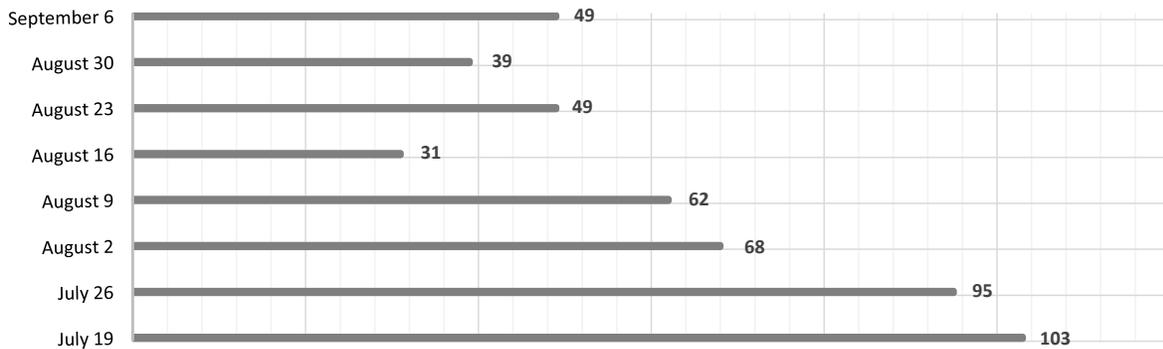
What we Know

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 September 12,

- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports 6,427,058 cases in the United States, and 192,388 deaths.
- [WI Department of Health Services](#) reports 87,063 cases, 76,909 (87.8%) recovered, 6,309 (7.2%) ever hospitalized, and 1,209 (1.4%) deaths. The seven day average of the percent of positive is 9.5%. Refer to [state summary date and county level data](#).
- [Marathon County](#), reports 859 cases, 732 (85.2%) recovered, 68 (7.9%) ever hospitalized, and 14 deaths (1.6%). 18,946 residents have tested negative for COVID-19. Refer to [Marathon County COVID-19 Dashboard](#). 20-39 years old account for 38% of all cases, with 22% 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



WI Department of Health Services has Marathon County’s [COVID-19 activity level](#) as high, being high since June 24. The activity level is based on the number of new cases in the past two weeks and percent change from the previous to the current week.

COVID-19
 Activity Level Marathon
 County
 on 9/9/2020



Individuals, businesses, and other entities can reduce their risk for exposure by practicing physically distancing and avoid large gatherings, wear a face covering when indoors and in public, wash hands frequently, and stay home if sick.

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 in being exposed to COVID-19:

- Watch your physical distance around others and avoid large gatherings,
- Wear a mask when you are not at home and indoor spaces or unable to physically distance,
- Wash your hands frequently, and
- Stay home when sick.

Wisconsinites are being asked to [wear face coverings](#) as 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 recent lower number of cases, the Health Department has been able to resume monitoring individuals in isolation and quarantine to assess their COVID-19 symptoms and ensure their basic needs are met.

Major Developments

U.S.

CDC updates for the week of September 6,

[Considerations for Restaurants and Bars](#)

[Special Populations Data in the U.S.](#)

[Cleaning, Disinfection, and hand Hygiene in Schools](#)

[Travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Shared and Congregate Housing](#)

[Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home](#)

[If You Have Pets](#)

[COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations](#)

[Attending Sporting Events](#)

[When to Quarantine](#)

[When You Can be Around Others after You Had or Likely Had COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#)
[Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities](#)
[Coronavirus Self-Checker](#)
[COVID-19 Forecasts: Cases](#)
[Know When to Delay your Travel to Avoid Spreading COVID-19](#)
[People Who Live in a Nursing Home or Long-Term Care Facility](#)
[People Who Are at Increased Risk for Severe Illness](#)
[People with Certain Medical Conditions](#)
[Personal and Social Activities](#)
[Deciding to Go Out](#)
[Doctor Visits and Getting Medicines](#)
[COVID-19 Employer Information for Office Buildings](#)
[Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in Children](#)
[Living in Shared Housing](#)
[People at Increased Risk](#)
[Keep Children Healthy during the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
[Older Adults](#)
[If You Are Pregnant, Breastfeeding, or Caring for Young Children](#)
[Cases in the U.S.](#)

On September 11, CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) published [Delay or Avoidance of Medical Care Because of COVID-19 Related Concerns – United States, June 2020](#)

On September 11, CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) published [Community and Close Contact Exposures Associated with COVID-19 Among Symptomatic Adults > 18 Years in 11 Outpatient Health Care Facilities – United States, July 2020](#)

Wisconsin

On September 2, WisCONTEXT published Face masks, [Wisconsin’s pandemic politics and the limits of persuasion](#). Why public health efforts are one more lightning rod in the polarized COVID-19 era

On September 4, WI Department of Health Services released [Assisted Living COVID-19 Testing Guidance](#)

On September 4, WI Department of Health Services released [Updated Guidance for Providing On-Site Hair Salon and Barber Services – Effective Immediately](#)

On September 4, WI Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection released [Federal Eviction Moratorium Affects Wisconsin Residential Properties](#)

On September 8, WI Department of Health Services releases [State Health Department Announces Funding Opportunity for Community Outreach about Flu Viruses and Flu Vaccines](#)

On September 8, Wisconsin Public Radio published [DHS Reports 17.6 Percent Positivity Rate in Tuesday’s Update. 7-Day Average Rises to 11.3 Percent, Highest the State Has Seen Since March](#)

On September 9, Wisconsin launches [“You Stop the Spread” Multimedia Campaign](#)

On September 9, WI Department of Health Services releases [Getting a Flu Vaccine Now is Critical During Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

On September 9, Wisconsin Public Radio published [Evers ask FEMA to rescind new rules on PPE](#)

On September 9, Wisconsin State Journal published [AstraZeneca pauses COVID-19 vaccine trial that include local component](#)

On September 9, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development released [DWD Releases Information on Unemployment Data](#)

On September 9, Wisconsin Public Radio published [Gov. Evers leaves door open to extend mask mandate](#)

On September 10, Wisconsin Department of Health Services released [COVID-19 Health Alert #16: Quarantine of Wisconsin Residents Exposed to COVID-19 is an Essential Prevention Strategy](#)

On September 10, Wisconsin Department of Health Services updated [Dental Guidance](#) posted to DHS COVID-19 Health Care Providers Page

On September 10, Wisconsin Department of Health Services released [Executive Summary of Guidelines for the Prevention, Investigation and Control of COVID-19 Outbreaks in K-12 Schools in Wisconsin](#)

On September 10, Wisconsin Public Radio published [‘I Feel Like My Head Is In A Vice’: Health Officials Describe Competing Concerns in Pandemic Response](#)

On September 11, Wisconsin State Journal published [Wisconsin Supreme Court Temporarily Suspends Dane County In-Person School Restrictions](#) – [Wisconsin Supreme Court Order](#) published September 10

Actions Marathon County is Taking

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. Monitor those in isolation and quarantine to assess their COVID-19 symptoms and ensure their basic needs are being met.
- 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. Marathon County’s target for September 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.

For the time period of August 26 – September 8, the percent positive was 4.1% for a total of 2,436 tests performed during this two week time period.

- 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; produced a flyer Testing for Student and Families; explored ways to expand testing capacity
- Follow-up on 11 active facility outbreaks to ensure best practices are in place to control further spread, having 59 facility outbreaks since April 7
- Follow-up on 22,459 negative, positive, or contacts to cases reported from March 1- September 13, 2020, an increase of 989 in the past week. Negative reports have been processed and imported into the state database thru September 10
- Oversee 25 contracted employees who are carrying out disease investigation and contact tracing activities or support tasks

Community Containment and Mitigation

- Isolate residents tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantine close contacts and assure they have a safe place to stay
- 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
- Field 444 calls from businesses or business related questions since March 25, having 2 calls during the week of September 6
- Field questions and 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
- Field questions and [complaints](#), provide education and resources to area businesses/organizations regarding Wisconsin's requirement for face coverings. Received 42 complaints the week of September 6 for a total of 601 since the on-line form was made available on August 13

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 – Produced a flyer on Testing for Student and Families, participated in the food and resource deliveries in Western Marathon County
 - o Plain Clothes – Mailed safe ways to greet one another, tips for taking care of yourself and weekly COVID data
- Provide accurate, timely and consistent information via [Marathon County Health Department website](#)

- Inform the community via [Marathon County Health Department Facebook](#)
 - o Posts: 16, Shares: 55, New Followers: 17 for week of September 6
 - o Posts: 677, Shares: 7,089, Followers: 4,693 since March 1
- Conducted 2 interviews during the week of September 6; for a total of 34 press releases and 172 interviews/contact with the media since March 1
- Field 106 calls from the general public during the week of September 6

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 in an 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.