



Wisconsin Department of Health Services Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report

To support requests from partners at the local and county level, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has developed the following situation report to share information on the Wisconsin response efforts for COVID-19. If you have any questions or comments about anything in this situation report, please contact DHSMedia@dhs.wisconsin.gov. This situation report will be distributed weekly on Fridays.

If you have additional questions about COVID-19, please contact DHSResponse@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Situation Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) are closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19) that originated in Wuhan, China. It has been detected in 70 locations internationally, including the United States. The virus has been named "SARS-CoV-2" and the disease it causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19"). This is a rapidly evolving and dynamic situation. There continues to be ongoing monitoring across the state. DHS is committed to protecting the health of all people in Wisconsin.

Major Developments

Nation-Wide

On Friday, March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Wisconsin

On March 13, 2020, Governor Tony Evers directed Secretary-designee Palm to close all public schools beginning at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. The status of the school closures will be re-evaluated two weeks following then.

On March 12, 2020, Governor Tony Evers today declared a public health emergency in response to new cases of COVID-19, directing the Department of Health Services (DHS) to use all the resources necessary to respond to and contain the outbreak. The governor signed an [executive order](#) that directs DHS to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and respond to incidences of COVID-19. It allows the Department to purchase, store, or distribute appropriate medications, regardless of insurance or other health coverage, as needed to respond to the emergency. It also authorizes state funds to support local health departments with costs related to isolation and quarantine, as well as the use of the Wisconsin National Guard.

Case Numbers – March 13, 2020

	Globally (Data from WHO) ⁺	United States (Data from CDC) ^{**}	Wisconsin (Data from DHS)
Confirmed cases	125,048	1,629	19
Negative	--	--	169
Deaths	4,613*	41	0
Total Tested	--	--	188

* 1,440 deaths reported outside of China.

** CDC's information is currently being updated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. In addition to the 14 reported confirmed cases, there are an additional 3 individuals from Wuhan, China and 43 Diamond Princess Cruise ship repatriated to the U.S.

+WHO numbers have not been updated as of 3:00PM on Friday February 28, 2020.

Confirmed cases in Wisconsin by County

Wisconsin County	Confirmed Case (Active)	Confirmed Case (Recovered)	Total Cases
Dane County	4	1	5
Fond du Lac County	6	0	6
Milwaukee County	2	0	2
Pierce County	1	0	1
Racine County	1	0	1
Sheboygan County	3	0	3

Waukesha County	1	0	1
Total Cases	18	1	19

Cases in the United States Reported to the CDC*+‡

	Confirmed
Travel-related	138
Person-to-person spread	129
Under Investigation	1,362
Total Cases	1,629

* Data include both confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 reported to CDC or tested at CDC since January 21, 2020, with the exception of testing results for persons repatriated to the United States from Wuhan, China and Japan. State and local public health departments are now testing and publicly reporting their cases. In the event of a discrepancy between CDC cases and cases reported by state and local public health officials, data reported by states should be considered the most up to date.

+ CDC is no longer reporting the number of persons under investigation (PUIs) that have been tested, as well as PUIs that have tested negative. Now that states are testing and reporting their own results, CDC's numbers are not representative all of testing being done nationwide.

Cases among persons repatriated to the United States

	Positive
Wuhan, China	3
Diamond Princess cruise ship*	46
Total Cases	49

* Cases have laboratory confirmation and may or may not have been symptomatic.

DHS Activities

In order to organize the COVID-19 response at the state level, DHS implemented an incident management system on January 28, 2020. Staff from leadership, communicable disease, chronic disease, public health and healthcare preparedness, environmental health, quality assurance and others have been working to assist in managing the response.

General

Wisconsin confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on February 5, 2020. Between March 9, 2020 and March 13, 2020, Wisconsin confirmed an additional 18 cases. The case contacts are located in multiple counties throughout the state, and are being quarantined and actively monitored. Local public health departments and tribal health centers are working to follow up with these individuals to assess risk and provide resources on symptom monitoring and self-isolation as needed.

In addition to the active cases in the state, DHS is working with the National Guard to facilitate bringing Wisconsin citizens home who were on the Grand Princess cruise. These individuals are not currently showing signs of illness and are not positive for COVID-19 at this time. Individuals will be in a 14-day self-quarantine at home. DHS values the work that is being done at the local level to support those that are returning from abroad.

Public Health Laboratory Activities

Changes to the testing guidance from CDC has increased Wisconsin's testing capacity overall. Wisconsin clinicians may now approve and ordering testing for their patients, and any clinician can obtain a test for COVID-19 for patients suspected to have the disease without prior approval from DHS. DHS encourages clinicians to use their judgement based on evolving epidemiology and guidance from CDC. Information about patients being tested must be completed in WEDSS via web reporting (preferred) or a [patient information form](#) (add patient address), and transmitted to the patient's local health department or DHS at the time laboratory specimens are submitted.

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Lab and the City of Milwaukee Health Department continue to conduct tests for the COVID-19 virus. Capacity for testing will continue to increase as a variety of commercial and health system labs are working to become operational shortly.

Healthcare

DHS continues to reach out to healthcare providers, including hospitals long-term care, assisted living facilities, and other licensed healthcare facilities when they request technical assistance regarding COVID-19. DHS has released [recommendations for long-term care facilities and assistance living facilities](#), and has DHS has hosted healthcare provider specific webinars, the most recent on Friday, March 6, 2020. Guidance for healthcare facilities can be found on the DHS COVID 19 webpage. DHS has been working with the Wisconsin Hospital Association, Wisconsin healthcare emergency readiness coalitions (HERCs) and the Wisconsin EMResource hospital resource tracking system to continue to gain situational awareness around healthcare facilities' personal protective equipment (PPE) levels.

Communications and Outreach

DHS public information officers continue to be pro-active in crisis communications planning due to the rapid developments of the response globally by working with subject matter experts regarding pandemic planning, personal protective equipment (PPE), and more. Communications staff are working to respond to media requests by holding media briefings with subject matter experts and leadership. Communications staff are working to increase capacity to engage with partners and the general public through regular Facebook Live videos.

DHS is continuing to work extensively with external stakeholder and partners across the state. Liaisons are strengthening communications with partners throughout the state by sharing regular updates and engagement opportunities with stakeholders. Currently, DHS is working to shift to more individual-based communications with stakeholders.

Anyone with questions can now send their request to DHSResponse@dhs.wisconsin.gov for information from DHS. Please direct any and all questions to this email address. A team of DHS staff is monitoring the inbox and triaging to the appropriate contact. They will be using the incoming questions to update frequently asked questions and guidance.

DHS hold weekly webinars for local health departments, tribal health centers, and partners to provide situational awareness and determine if there are any unmet needs that need to be addressed. DHS staff are working to provide resources and technical assistance as needed. These webinars are being recorded and posted online.

DHS updates its case numbers on the public website at 2 p.m. on weekdays. Overall, information on COVID-19 can be found on the DHS website in two locations:

- [COVID-19 Disease webpage](#)
- [Outbreaks and Investigations webpage](#)

Media Briefing Videos

- March 13, 2020: <https://vimeo.com/397523168/05f9c83235>
 - Dr. Ryan Westergaard, Chief Medical Officer of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases
 - Julie Willems Van Dijk, Department of Health Services Deputy Secretary

Videos

- [Facebook Live: DHS Answers CPVOD-19 Questions](#)
- [Follow Basic Hygiene Practices to Stop the Spread of COVID-19](#)
- [Process Changes Mean More COVID-19 Tests](#)

News Releases

- [Second Case of COVID-19 Confirmed in Wisconsin](#) (published March 9, 2020)
- [Third Case of COVID-19 Confirmed in Wisconsin](#) (published March 10, 2020)
- [Three Additional Cases of COVID-19 Confirmed in Wisconsin](#) (published March 11, 2020)
- [Two Additional Cases of COVID-19 Confirmed in Dane County](#) (published March 12, 2020)

List of DHS publications

- Memo on [updated recommendations](#) for clinicians and public health staff regarding evaluating patients for COVID-19.
- Memo on [new recommendations](#) for health care and public health partners related to evaluation and testing of patients with respiratory symptoms.
- Memo on [important recommendations](#) for prevention of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities and assisted living facilities.