



# 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](mailto:DHSMedia@dhs.wisconsin.gov). This situation report will be distributed weekly.

Given the rapidly changing nature of this public health emergency, this situation report contains the most recent information available at this time. Regular updates and resources are also posted on the CDC and DHS COVID-19 websites and the PCA Portal. Please continue to advise the public to use the 211 system with general questions and concerns.

### 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

#### Executive Orders

- March 24, 2020: [Gov. Evers Emergency Order 12: Safer at Home Order](#)
- March 22, 2020: [Gov. Evers Emergency Order 12: Safer at Home Order](#)
- March 21, 2020: [Gov. Evers Emergency Order 10: Public Service Commission Administrative Rule Suspensions](#)
- March 21, 2020: [Gov. Evers Emergency Order 10: Department of Public Instruction Administration Rule Suspension and Emergency Orders](#)
- March 20, 2020: [Gov. Evers Emergency Order 9: Order to the Department of Corrections](#)
- March 20, 2020: [Gov. Evers Emergency Order 8: Updated Mass Gathering Ban](#)
- March 18, 2020: [Gov. Evers Emergency Order 7: Order to the Department of Workforce Development Regarding Unemployment Insurance](#)
- March 18, 2020: [Gov. Evers Emergency Order 6: Order Restricting the Size of Child Care Settings](#)
- March 17, 2020: [Gov. Evers Emergency Order 5: Order Prohibiting Mass Gatherings of 10 People or More](#)
- March 16, 2020: [Gov. Evers Emergency Order 4: Order Prohibiting Mass Gatherings of 50 People or More](#)

#### Press Releases

- March 23, 2020: [Gov. Evers Directs DHS to Issue Safer at Home Order](#)
- March 22, 2020: [Gov. Evers Suspends Utility Rules and Allows for Additional Consumer Protections](#)
- March 22, 2020: [Gov. Evers Announces New Order Relating to Department of Public Instruction](#)
- March 21, 2020: [Wisconsin Requests FEMA Assistance in Obtaining Protective Medical Supplies](#)
- March 21, 2020: [Gov. Evers Urges Wisconsinites to Stay Home](#)
- March 21, 2020: [Gov. Evers Announces Four Remaining Grand Princess Cruise Ship Passengers Return to Wisconsin](#)
- March 20, 2020: [Gov. Evers Announces Federal Approval for Disaster Loans for Small Businesses](#)
- March 20, 2020: [Gov. Evers Works to Increase Wisconsin Medical Provider Access to Critical Supplies](#)
- March 20, 2020: [Gov. Evers, DHS Announce Updated Mass Gatherings Order](#)
- March 19, 2020: [Gov. Evers Confirms Two COVID-19 Deaths in Wisconsin](#)
- March 19, 2020: [Gov. Evers Urges the Public to Help Keep Our Healthcare Workers Safe](#)
- March 19, 2020: [Gov. Evers Delivers Democratic Weekly Radio Address on COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
- March 18, 2020: [Gov. Evers Waives Work Search and Modifies Availability Requirements for Unemployment Benefits](#)
- March 18, 2020: [Gov. Evers Orders Scaling Down of all Child Care Settings](#)
- March 18, 2020: [Gov. Evers Submits Request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan Assistance for Small Wisconsin Businesses](#)
- March 17, 2020: [Gov. Evers Directs DHS to Limit Gatherings to Less Than 10 to Slow Spread of COVID-19](#)

- March 16, 2020: [Gov. Evers Directs DHS to Prohibit Mass Gatherings of 50 People or More](#)
- March 16, 2020: [Gov. Evers, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin National Guard Work to Bring Grand Princess Cruise Ship Passengers Safely Back to Wisconsin](#)

## Case Numbers – March 20, 2020

	Globally (Data from <a href="#">WHO</a> )	United States (Data from <a href="#">CDC*</a> )	Wisconsin (Data from <a href="#">DHS</a> )
<b>Confirmed cases</b>	414,179	54,453	585
<b>Negative</b>	--	--	10,089
<b>Deaths</b>	18,440	737	6

\* Data includes 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.

## Confirmed cases in Wisconsin by County

Wisconsin County	Total Cases as of 3/25/2020	Total Deaths as of 3/25/2020
Bayfield	1	0
Brown County	3	0
Calumet County	1	0
Chippewa County	1	0
Columbia County	5	0
Dane County	88	1
Dodge	3	0
Douglas County	4	0
Dunn County	1	0
Eau Claire	5	0
Fond du Lac County	18	1
Grant County	1	0
Green County	1	0
Iowa County	3	0
Jefferson County	5	0
Kenosha County	14	0
La Crosse County	10	0
Marathon County	1	0
Milwaukee County	290	3
Monroe County	1	0
Outagamie County	4	0
Ozaukee County	20	1
Pierce County	3	0
Racine County	7	0
Rock County	4	0
Sauk County	6	0
Sheboygan County	7	0
St. Croix County	4	0
Walworth County	5	0
Washington County	21	0
Waukesha County	42	0
Winnebago County	5	0
Wood	1	0
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>6</b>

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

	Confirmed
Travel-Related	584
Close Contact	986
Under Investigation	52,883
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>54,453</b>

\* 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.

## DHS Activities

In order to organize the COVID-19 response at the state level, DHS implemented an incident management system on January 28. 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. On Monday, March 16, DHS staff reported to the State Emergency Operations Center at the Department of Military Affairs to manage the response with other state and non-governmental partners, and have continued staffing in this capacity since.

## General

Wisconsin confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on February 5, and has seen an increase in total cases to 457. Between March 14 and March 25, Wisconsin has confirmed 566 cases. During this time, Wisconsin has also reported six deaths associated with COVID-19.

The contacts of confirmed cases are located in multiple counties throughout the state. 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. DHS has staffed and trained a contact tracing team of 60 individuals to support local capacity in this area. Information related how to request and access this support will be shared shortly with local public health agencies.

On March 15, 29 Wisconsin residents from the Grand Princess cruise ship that docked at the Port of Oakland in California last week were safely transported back to Wisconsin through coordinated efforts by Governor Evers, DHS, and the Wisconsin National Guard. After returning to the state, Soldiers and Airmen from the Wisconsin National Guard were waiting to transport them back to their homes for self-quarantine. Four additional Grand Princess cruise passengers were returned to Wisconsin on March 20.

## Isolation Facilities

DHS, along with Epic, DOA, WEM, WI National Guard, and VOAD partners, established an operational plan to establish and maintain isolation facilities across the state. On March 23, facilities in Dane and Milwaukee counties will be stood up. A facility is currently being planned to be set up in Fox Valley this week.

## Public Health Laboratory Activities

Testing for COVID-19 is being done in Wisconsin through both the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and at the City of Milwaukee Health Department, as well as private labs throughout the state. Currently, Wisconsin is prioritizing testing for COVID-19 due to a shortage of ingredients needed to run the tests. It is essential to reserve the state's testing capacity for individuals who are critically ill and healthcare workers on the front lines so as to keep the healthcare workforce safe and healthy and help stop the spread of the virus. Many states across the country are experiencing this same problem, and DHS has been working with partners in the federal government, in the private sector, and our public universities to try to get the ingredients needed to run these tests.

DHS is working with National Guard to establish teams capable of mobile specimen collection. At this time, due to limitations in testing capacity, there are not specific plans to activate mobile specimen collection points. Once the testing capacity is increased, specifically the availability of the ingredient needed to run the tests, DHS, WEM and WING will evaluate the need to activate these mobile specimen collection points, and implement as necessary.

## Surge Beds

DHS is working with Epic to deploy a system for using Epic's data to monitor ICU bed and ventilator capacity, and is working to determine how this information will supplement data collected through EM Resource. The Surge taskforce is assessing the need to activate and maintain regional field hospitals to support hospital surge capacity. The taskforce is working to determine how these field hospitals interact with hospitals in the area, and what existing supplies and support the hospitals have in place that may be able to support this operation.

## PPE Procurement

PPE is being acquired through multiple sources in order to support the PPE needs across the state. These sources include the strategic national stockpile (SNS) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and FEMA.

Hospitals, long term care, in-home patient care providers, and EMS are eligible to receive PPE through the SNS. Information on how to request these resources has been provided directly to the eligible partners. Law enforcement and fire department partners will have the opportunity to request PPE from the resources provided by FEMA.

In addition to the Strategic National Stockpile, and FEMA request, WI DHS, WEM and additional partners in the state emergency operations center are currently working on a buy-back program, in conjunction with procurement and donations, to obtain more PPE for distribution.

## Health Care

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. 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, as well as information related to usage and availability of additional resources.

## Communications and Outreach

DHS public information officers continue to be proactive in crisis communications planning due to the rapid developments of the response globally by working with subject matter experts on a variety of guidance topics. Communications staff are working to respond to media requests by holding regular media briefings with subject matter experts and leadership each week. Staff have also established a weekly Facebook Live video to answer common questions and engage with members of the public.

To aid in communications, DHS has developed a visual communications card designed for people with hearing loss to aid, which will also be beneficial for individuals with limited English proficiency to communicate about things such as their symptoms, travel history, and length of sickness.

DHS has worked with 211 to transition the [DHSResponse@wi.gov](mailto:DHSResponse@wi.gov) mailbox out of service. Questions and comments that would have previously gone to this email box will now be directed to 211 and assessed appropriately. In addition, DHS has created specific mailboxes to receive emails from tribal and local public health officials pertaining to COVID-19, and have shared this information appropriately.

Information on COVID-19 can be found on the DHS website in two locations:

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

## Additional Information Links

- [Division of Public Instruction Information on COVID-19 and FAQs for schools](#)
- [Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection information on COVID-19](#)
- [Department of Children and Families COVID-19 updates](#)
- [Wisconsin COVID-19 Coronavirus Information](#)

## Media Briefing Videos

- March 24, 2020: [Media Briefing Call to Update Status of Wisconsin's COVID-19 Response and the Safer At Home Order](#)

- Governor Tony Evers
- Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp, Wisconsin's Adjutant General
- Secretary-designee Andrea Palm, Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Dr. Ryan Westergaard, Chief Medical Officer of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases
- Ryan Nilsestuen, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Governor
- March 21, 2020: [Media Briefing Call to Update Status of Wisconsin's COVID-19 Response](#)
  - Governor Tony Evers
  - Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp, Wisconsin's Adjutant General
  - Secretary-designee Andrea Palm, Wisconsin Department of Health Services
  - Dr. Ryan Westergaard, Chief Medical Officer of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases
- March 20, 2020: [Media Briefing Call to Update Status of Wisconsin's COVID-19 Response](#)
  - Governor Tony Evers
  - Secretary-designee Andrea Palm, Wisconsin Department of Health Services
  - Dr. Ryan Westergaard, Chief Medical Officer of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases

## Additional Videos

- [#DHSWI Secretary-designee Palm on why we need #SaferAtHome](#)
- [Governor Evers explains Safer At Home](#)
- [#SaferAtHome Order](#)
- [Deputy Secretary: Have an Emergency Preparedness Kit](#)
- [Deputy Secretary: Making Travel Plans](#)
- [Deputy Secretary: What an Emergency Declaration Means](#)
- [Governor Evers talks #SaferAtHome](#)
- [#DHSWI Secretary-designee Andrea Palm updates #COVID WI](#)
- [Why social distancing is so important](#)
- [Stay up to date on #COVID19 in Wisconsin](#)
- [#DHSWI Secretary Palm with new guidance and a new warning](#)
- [Gov. Evers Updates Status of #COVID19 in Wisconsin](#)
- [Facebook Live: DHS Answers CPVOD-19 Questions](#)
- [#COVID19: Having your parents watch your kids in not a good option](#)
- [Governor Tony Evers submitted a request to the U.S. Small Business Administration](#)
- [Governor Evers explains why limiting gatherings can help stop #COVID19](#)
- [Closing Schools Can be Tough on Parents, but Keeps Communities Safer](#)

## List of DHS publications

- [COVID-19 Facts: Mass Gathering Guidance](#)
  - [COVID-19 Facts: Mass Gathering Guidance, Hmong](#)
  - [COVID-19 Facts: Mass Gathering Guidance, Spanish](#)
- [COVID-19 Facts: Protect Your Family](#)
  - [COVID-19 Facts: Protect Your Family, Hmong](#)
  - [COVID-19 Facts: Protect Your Family, Spanish](#)
- [COVID-19 Facts: Shopping Tips](#)
- [COVID-19 Facts: Tips for Living in Group Settings](#)
- [COVID-19 Facts: Why Social Distancing?](#)
  - [COVID-19 Facts: Why Social Distancing?, Hmong](#)
  - [COVID-19 Facts: Why Social Distancing?, Spanish](#)
- [Please do not visit if you have a fever or cough](#)
- [Instructions for Individuals with High-Risk Exposure to COVID-19](#)
- [Instructions for Individuals with Medium-Risk Exposure to COVID-19](#)
- [Instructions for Individuals with Low-Risk Exposure to COVID-19](#)
- [Self-Isolation for Individuals Being Evaluated for COVID-19](#)

- [Cleaning and Disinfecting after a confirmed COVID-19 case](#)
  - [Cleaning and Disinfecting after a confirmed COVID-19 case, Hmong](#)
  - [Cleaning and Disinfecting after a confirmed COVID-19 case, Spanish](#)
- [Living in Group Settings](#)
  - [Living in Group Settings, Hmong](#)
  - [Living in Group Settings, Spanish](#)