



COVID-19 Update

Weekly Update: April 26, 2022

Planes, Trains, And Buses – What’s the Latest on Masks?

Effective April 18, 2022, wearing a mask is no longer required by federal law on all public transportation, including planes, buses, and trains, traveling domestically in the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. The CDC continues to recommend that people wear a mask in indoor public transportation settings to prevent the spread of new, highly contagious COVID-19 variants.

Please be aware that:

- Masks may still be required by local law.
- People utilizing public transportation should check for any [local travel requirements](#).
- Local transportation hubs and transit agencies may still require masks.
- Although masks are no longer federally mandated, people using public transportation can continue to wear well-fitting masks or respirators if it makes them feel safer.
- Masks may still be required when traveling to and from certain international locations based on [country requirements](#).
- Businesses may still choose to require masks.

Staying Up to Date with Vaccines

Being [up to date](#) on your COVID-19 vaccines ensures you have the best protection possible against severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

To be **up to date** with your COVID-19 vaccines, you will need to be fully vaccinated **and** get a booster dose when eligible.

- The primary series includes two doses of Moderna or Pfizer or one dose of Johnson & Johnson.
- People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should get an [additional](#) primary dose for the best protection.
- Everyone 12 years and older should get a [booster](#) dose to stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines and boost protection against COVID-19.

If you are moderately or severely immunocompromised, you will need to get an additional dose for better protection. Visit [CDC's website](#), call 211, or talk to your health care provider to learn more.

Data Update: Illness after Vaccination Rates



WISCONSIN COVID-19 Update

March 2022 Data by Vaccination Status

Age-adjusted rates among people who are not fully vaccinated compared to fully vaccinated people:

- Diagnosed with COVID-19 at a rate **1.1x higher**
- Hospitalized with COVID-19 at a rate **2.4x higher**
- Died from COVID-19 at a rate **3.2x higher**

On average, fully vaccinated people are less likely to be hospitalized and die from COVID-19 compared to people who are not fully vaccinated.



Get Vaccinated



Mask Up



Stay 6' Apart



Wash Hands

As the number of fully vaccinated individuals increase, and disease transmissibility remains high due to the Omicron variants, we can expect to see an increase in the number of [fully vaccinated individuals](#) who test positive for COVID-19. **Even as cases are on the rise, vaccines and booster doses remain highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.**

It is critical to get vaccinated as soon as possible, and to [stay up to date](#) by getting a booster dose after 5 months (or 2 months if you received a J&J vaccine). Anyone over the age of 50 or immune comprised people ages 12 and over are also eligible for a [second booster](#).

DHS has also updated the [COVID-19 Illness After Vaccination data page](#) to include data for January and February 2022. The updating of this data was delayed while DHS made improvements to the way data was gathered and stored in order to address technical difficulties. DHS plans to continue updating this data by the 20th of each month.

The COVID-19 vaccines remain the best way to protect yourself, your family, and your community from COVID-19. Vaccination locations can be found at [vaccines.gov](#) (<https://vacunas.gov/>) or by dialing 211.

Send a Thank You Note to Your COVID-19 Heroes!



“ I want to take a moment to thank every school nurse who stepped up more than we ever will know, helping so many kids and families feel comfortable in the craziness of the last two years. From contact tracing to testing to vaccines, you all were there and never gave up. Dedicated and worth all that you do! Thank you!

Mark
Brown County

”

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) continues to promote the hard work and dedication of our state's public health heroes on the "[Thank You Tour: Moving Forward Together.](#)" As part of the Thank You Tour, DHS is calling on Wisconsinites to [participate online](#) by recognizing individuals, groups, or organizations who have been involved in the COVID-19 response. So far, 199 notes of appreciation have been submitted, which DHS will be sharing on its website and social media.

Vaccine Information:



Wisconsin's COVID-19 Vaccine Pledge

To get a COVID-19 vaccine:

- **You do not need an ID.**
- **You do not need proof of residency.**
- **You do not need health insurance.**
- **You do not need to pay, it's FREE.**

**Anyone age 5+ can get
a COVID-19 vaccine.**

If you have been turned away by a vaccinator due to lack of an ID and/or health insurance, please report the violation by emailing DHSCovidVaccinePublic@Wisconsin.gov or call 211.

YOU STOP THE SPREAD



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

Vaccine Data:

Check out the [latest data on Wisconsin's vaccination effort](#). DHS updates provider data every Tuesday, and the administered number is updated every weekday at 2 p.m.

Testing Information:

If you are feeling ill or if you may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, using a COVID-19 self-test is a safe and highly effective method for detecting COVID-19 infection.

Self-tests can be purchased at local pharmacy or retail stores, and each U.S. household is eligible to receive 2 sets every 30 days of free COVID-19 self-tests at [COVID.gov](https://www.covid.gov).

In addition to at-home self-tests, community testing sites remain accessible across Wisconsin. Find a site near you by dialing 211 or visiting the [DHS Community Testing](#) information page.

Treatment Information:

New Tools to Prevent and Fight COVID-19

There are new options available to help eligible people prevent and fight against COVID-19:

- Monoclonal antibody therapeutics can help treat or prevent COVID-19.
- Antiviral pills help your body fight off COVID-19 infection.

Get vaccinated, and your booster when eligible, to help prevent severe health outcomes caused by COVID-19.



YOU STOP THE SPREAD



Treatments for COVID-19 are now available across Wisconsin. Click [here](#) to learn more about [available treatments](#). If you experience symptoms of COVID-19, get tested right away and talk to your healthcare provider about treatment options. Your healthcare provider will review your health history and determine whether any of these treatments are right for you. Most of the available

treatments need to be started within 5 days of symptom onset, so do not delay. Get tested right away.

ICYMI: Recent COVID-19 News

- [DHS Makes Updates to COVID-19 Data Webpages](#)

COVID-19 by the Numbers

- [Cases](#)
- [Deaths](#)
- [Disease Activity](#)
- [Race and Ethnic Disparities](#)
- [Vaccine](#)



Building resilience—the ability to adapt and recover from adversity—within ourselves, our relationships, and in our communities matters. When we find healthy ways to cope with trauma and toxic stress, especially during tough times, we take a step closer to becoming more resilient.

If you are experiencing emotion distress, or the effects of collective trauma, the Disaster Distress Hotline is here for you. Call or text (800)985-5990 to be connected with a trained, caring counselor – 24/7. Remember, it is okay to ask for help.

[Resilient Wisconsin has information and tools to support good health for you, your friends, and your family.](#)

Other Languages, Graphics, and Print Materials

DHS materials are available in multiple languages as electronic files you can view online or download and print. You can use these materials at home or for your business. Visit the [DHS website](#) to view what resources are available to you.



Media Briefing

There was no media briefing last week.

Social Media

Follow DHS on social media for the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 response and vaccine rollout.

- @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- dhs.wi on <https://www.instagram.com/dhs.wi/>

Newsletter

Looking for previous newsletters? To view past versions of this newsletter, visit the [DHS website](#).