

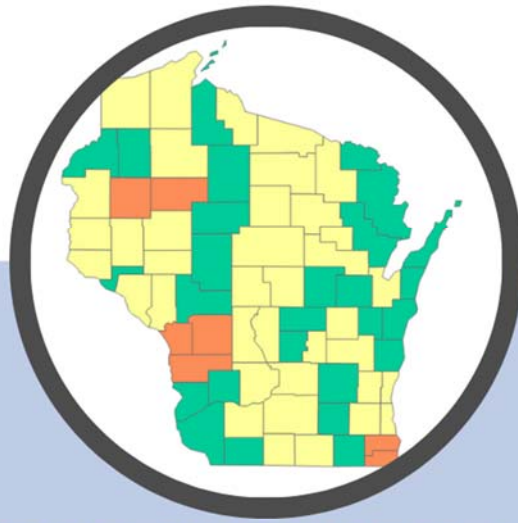


WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

COVID-19 Update

Weekly Update: May 16, 2022

COVID-19 Cases are on the Rise



7 COUNTIES IN WISCONSIN HAVE HIGH COMMUNITY LEVELS THIS WEEK. WHEN YOUR COMMUNITY LEVEL IS HIGH, WEAR MASKS INDOORS.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH VACCINATIONS, AND STAY HOME IF YOU ARE FEELING SICK.

YOU STOP THE SPREAD



As the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) continues to monitor an increase in the spread and impact of COVID-19 across the state, DHS recommends that Wisconsinites know their COVID-19 Community Level and take additional precautions against COVID-19 to protect health and save lives.

DHS continues to track the impact of COVID-19 using CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels, which are based on the number of new cases and hospital capacity. As of May 12, 2022, CDC data indicate 7 Wisconsin counties: Kenosha; Racine; Vernon; LaCrosse; Monroe; Barron; and Rusk have moved into the high COVID-19 Community Level category, 38 Wisconsin counties are experiencing a medium COVID-19 Community Level, and 27 are experiencing a low COVID-19 Community Level. **Residents in counties with a high COVID-19 Community Level are**

recommended to wear a well-fitting mask or respirator in public indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status.

In addition, DHS urges all Wisconsinites to take the following actions:

- **Know the COVID-19 Community Level** where you live or are traveling to and follow the associated guidelines.
- **Stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccines** by getting all recommended vaccines and booster doses.
- **Get tested for COVID-19** if you have symptoms or were exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- **Stay home if you are sick or test positive for COVID-19**, and talk to a health care provider or visit a community clinic to ask about available.

COVID-19 Community Levels: What Do They Mean?

LOW

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- Stay home if you are sick or are recommended to isolate or quarantine

MEDIUM

- If you're at high risk for severe illness, talk to your health care provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- Stay home if you are sick or are recommended to isolate or quarantine

HIGH

- Wear a mask indoors in public
- If you're at high risk for severe illness, take additional precautions as needed
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- Stay home if you are sick or are recommended to isolate or quarantine



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Individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 should continue to follow [isolation and quarantine](#) recommendations. Wearing a well-fitting mask or respirator also further reduces the risk of getting sick.

We have added a new [CDC](#) widget to our [summary data page](#). That makes it easier for all users, especially those with assistive devices, to find Community Levels and prevention steps by county near the top of the page.

DHS Announced Moving Forward Together Grants to Support Vaccine Health Equity

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announced [the Moving Forward Together Grant Program](#), a new funding opportunity to support continued efforts to promote health equity in COVID-19 vaccination in Wisconsin.

Eligible organizations can apply for awards of up to \$400,000 to advance efforts to address barriers to COVID-19 vaccination. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis as funds remain available. For more information on the Moving Forward Together Grant Program, visit the [Moving Forward Together Grant Program webpage](#).

Organizations eligible to apply for funding include, but are not limited to:

- 📍 Churches or religious groups
- 📍 Non-profits or projects sponsored by a 501(c)(3)
- 📍 Licensed residential and community-based care facilities
- 📍 Entities that employ critical workforce
- 📍 Local or tribal community-based organizations
- 📍 Colleges, universities, and K-12 schools or districts
- 📍 Non-traditional providers that serve high risk populations



**Moving
Forward
Together
Grant
Program**



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May is Resilient Wisconsin Month



Resilient Wisconsin is our effort to build a state where all Wisconsinites, regardless of who they are or where they live, have the support and resources they need to overcome adversity and build a stronger, healthier, and more connected future for themselves and their communities more effectively.

Governor Evers has proclaimed May 2022 as [Resilient Wisconsin Month](#). Taking care of yourself, your friends, and your family can help you cope with the day-to-day challenges of life. Take time this month to learn how individuals and communities can thrive by staying connected and building strength. This month and every month, we want Wisconsinites to know that it is not only okay to ask for help, but that help is available to them. Visit the Resilient Wisconsin webpages on the [DHS website](#) for more information.

What You Need to Know: Post-COVID Conditions

While most people recover from COVID-19 within a few weeks of infection, some people experience post-COVID conditions. These conditions can impact many systems in your body and can present themselves as different combinations of health problems. Protect yourself against COVID-19 and possible long term health outcomes by staying [up to date](#) with vaccines. Learn more, www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/long-covid.htm.

Vaccine Information:

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.

To find a vaccine near you, go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) or [vacunas.gov](https://www.vacunass.gov).

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.

Reminder: Turn on Your Wisconsin Exposure Notification App

WI Exposure Notification is a smartphone app that uses Bluetooth Low Energy technology to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in Wisconsin. Once you activate the app, your phone exchanges anonymous signals with other phones that are near it for at least 15 minutes. If somebody who has the app tests positive for COVID-19, they can then send an anonymous alert using the app to those other phones. This will allow people who are close contacts to quickly get the care they need and avoid exposing others to the virus.

The app is available for download from the Google Play Store or can be enabled in Settings on your iPhone. **Remember, if you test positive for COVID-19, use the notification in the app to alert others who have been in close contact with you.**

For more information on the Wisconsin Exposure Notification App, please see our [webpage](#).

COVID-19 Therapeutics: What You Need to Know

If you are unlikely to have an adequate response to COVID-19 vaccination due to a compromised immune system, there is a highly effective preventive medication that you can take called Evusheld. Evusheld showed a 77% reduction in the risk of developing symptomatic COVID-19 compared to placebo in clinical trials. If your doctor recommends this medication to you, we urge you to take it.

If you experience symptoms of COVID-19, get tested right away and talk to your healthcare provider about available 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. Click here to learn more about [available treatments](#).

From the Governor's Desk

[Gov. Evers Celebrates National Travel and Tourism Week](#)

Gov. Evers has invested \$1 billion of Wisconsin's federal funds in small businesses and other industries impacted by the pandemic, \$200 million of which was invested in the travel and tourism, hotels and lodging, and entertainment industries alone. Gov. Evers has invested \$1 billion of Wisconsin's federal funds in small businesses and other industries impacted by the pandemic,

Please do not respond to this email. Additional information about COVID-19 is available at the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) website.

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