

# State of Wisconsin COVID-19 Response

Situation to Date  
19 MARCH – 0700-1900



## Summary

The State EOC has elevated to a Level 1 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak affecting Wisconsin, as of March 16<sup>th</sup>, and is continuing 24/7 operations.

Governor Evers issued a Public Health Emergency on March 12, 2020.

Governor Evers has issued the following press releases related to statewide mandates:

- March 19:
  - [Gov. Evers Urges the Public to Help Keep Our Healthcare Workers Safe](#)
  - [Gov. Evers Delivers Democratic Weekly Radio Address on COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
- March 18:
  - [Gov. Evers Waives Work Search and Modifies Availability Requirements for Unemployment Benefits](#)
  - [Gov. Evers Orders Scaling Down of all Child Care Settings](#)
  - [Gov. Evers Submits Request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan Assistance for Small Wisconsin Businesses](#)
- March 17:
  - [Gov. Evers Directs DHS to Limit Gatherings to Less Than 10 to Slow Spread of COVID-19.](#)
- March 16:
  - [Gov. Evers Directs DHS to Prohibit Mass Gatherings of 50 People or More \(Secretary-designee Palm's order\)](#)
- March 13:
  - Gov. Evers directed WDHS to mandate statewide closure of all K-12 Wisconsin schools. The anticipated reopening date is April 6, subject to change pending further information.

## Case numbers

	Globally (Data from <a href="#">WHO</a> as of 3/18/2020)	United States (Data from <a href="#">CDC*</a> )	Wisconsin (Data from <a href="#">DHS</a> )
<b>Confirmed cases</b>	<b>191,127</b>	<b>10,442</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Negative</b>	--	--	<b>2,192</b>
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>7,807</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	--	--	<b>2,347</b>

\* 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.

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

	Confirmed
Travel-related	290
Person-to-person spread	310
Under investigation	9,842
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>10,442</b>

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+ 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.

## Confirmed cases in Wisconsin by County

Wisconsin County	Confirmed Case (Active)
Bayfield	1
Brown County*	2
Calumet County	1
Columbia County	4
Dane County*	27
Eau Claire	1
Fond du Lac County	14
Kenosha County*	4
La Crosse County	2
Milwaukee County*	62
Outagamie County	1
Ozaukee County	3
Pierce County	1
Racine County	3
Sauk County	1
Sheboygan County	6
Walworth County	2
Washington County	2
Waukesha County	12
Winnebago County	5
Wood	1
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>155</b>

\*An asterisk indicates community spread has been identified.

Counties highlighted in orange reflect counties that have identified their first case.

## Open Requests for Assistance:

At this time, the State EOC is unable to fulfill requests for PPE, due to lack of availability. WDHS is coordinating with federal agencies to access the Strategic National Stockpile in order to allocate PPE resources to agencies that provide direct patient care. State and federal health services agencies continue to plan, and will announce a date for distribution when established. Other non-PPE requests are being processed based on priority of needs. These include:

- Supplies for childcare centers and law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin, which is being addressed by the Business Emergency Operations Center.
- Personnel to assist with Strategic National Stockpile warehouse operations.
- Electronic forehead thermometers to monitor staff temperatures.

WDHS, WEM, and the National Guard are also working in tandem to coordinate long-term planning to establish mobile testing facilities and plan enhanced isolation protocols across the state.

## Unmet Needs

There is a significant number of unmet personal protective equipment (PPE) needs in the State of Wisconsin. Items have been requested from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), but it is anticipated that need will exceed supply. WI DHS will receive PPE requests through an established order form, and will prioritize requests based on the scarce resource allocation decision tree developed with the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC), and will continue to coordinate resource requests with WDHS.

## State Agency Response

### WDHS

WDHS, along with DOA, WEM, WING, and VOAD partners, established an operational plan to establish and maintain three isolation facilities across the state. These facilities will serve individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, or those who may have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual.

WDHS is working to finalize the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) which will serve to provide guidance and direction on crisis standards of care in situations requiring scarce resource allocation.

WDHS is working to adjust CDC guidance regarding preservation of PPE to include in all shipments of the Strategic National Stockpile resources.

WDHS staff have been working to develop a visual communications card designed for people with hearing loss to aid in communication, which will also be beneficial for individuals with limited English proficiency to communicate things such as symptoms, travel history, exposure, and length of sickness.

WDHS, WING, and WEM have continued revising and finalizing the plans for the mobile sample collection mission. WING presented the operational plan to WDHS staff, and WDHS staff will be working to identify how individuals will be identified as being authorized for testing prior to arrival at the mobile sample collection site.

Level I and Level II Trauma Centers are anticipating a blood donation shortage, and are limiting usage of the blood supply in hospitals.

WDHS has been working with DOT to maintain situational awareness of changes and restrictions to the public transportation capacity across the state. WDHS will continue to monitor this information to maintain awareness of the impact on healthcare staff.

The WDHS PIO Team has been creating flyers to be posted in a number of venues, including hotels, grocery stores, food pantries, and shelters. All contain important safety messages.

The WDHS PIO team is also working with UW social media influencers to develop posts to encourage college-aged people to take COVID-19 protection seriously, including and especially social distancing.

A Facebook Live event was held March 19 to answer questions from the public and address their concerns about COVID-19. Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ryan Westergaard fielded the questions.

### DATCP

DATCP issued a press release today on tips for consumers seeking ticket refunds and another on price gouging last week. DATCP has also been reaching out to industry partners to answer questions and provide assistance.

DATCP has issued guidance on the impacts to veterinary clinics due to Governor's Emergency Order #5.

DATCP Division of Animal Health has also sent guidance to licensed truckers, markets, dealers, and feedlots on Governor's Emergency Order #5.

DATCP/DFRS sent out guidance on the Governor's Emergency Order #5 to restaurants.

DNR DNR is responding to a request for staff to help with the Strategic National Stockpile and identifying personnel to fill specific positions not yet identified by WDHS. The IMT is active filling requests.

DOA The Department of Administration is assisting WDHS identify additional personnel for COVID-19 response. DOA asks state agencies to consider excess personnel capacity that may be available to assist WDHS. More details will be provided soon. In the meantime, state agencies are asked to name a point of contact and direct them to contact Jim Langdon, DOA EOC Operations, at [james.langdon@wisconsin.gov](mailto:james.langdon@wisconsin.gov) to establish a line of communication.

WEDC (Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation) Multiple WEDC Business and Community Development staff participated in a US SBA Economic Injury Loan Presentation. WEDC began working with community development financial institutions to launch the newly created SB 20/20 program to provide grants for businesses negatively impacted.

DWD As of March 19, 25 job service centers are closed to the public, 28 are open. Services are provided to job seekers via telephone and internet. Four additional job centers are expected to close tomorrow. An up to date list can be found here: <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/covid19/public/det.htm>.

In addition, due to decisions at the Department of Corrections, the job centers located in Wisconsin prisons are closed and staff are attempting to serve them virtually.

All DVR locations have closed to the public. DVR continues to serve all customers using remote communication tools. An update on this can be found here: <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/covid19/public/dvr.htm>.

Initial unemployment claims (claims made by people for the first time) are rising rapidly which causes work load issues. However, UI is able to surge staff and meet the need. These are claims only, they do not necessarily equate to an increase in benefits. It is too soon to know what the economic impact will be but the UI Division is closely watching in order to request whatever additional resources will be needed.

WSP Overweight permits in the state are valid on all roads including the interstate system. The only restrictions are Class II roads and hard-posted roads and bridges.

Wisconsin's overweight permit is specific to transportation of inventory to supply grocery retailers. A carrier would need a permit from each state they are operating in; there is no national permit at this time.

FMCSA expanded the list of items that can be carried and still provide the carrier relief from parts 390-399; that information is attached. Please note there is a distinct difference in

commodities which can be hauled to obtain a valid state permit and get relief from the federal regulations.

## VOAD Response

211 Wisconsin	Supporting calls statewide for COVID-19. Developed COVID-19 site on 211 website.
American Red Cross	Loaned cots to partner organizations. Supporting blood supply availability. Working to address current shortage.
College Possible/Serve Wisconsin	Volunteers assisting feeding sites at MPS.
Team Rubicon	Five operations in progress in Wisconsin. Personnel is focused on providing manpower to feeding, phone, and warehouse operations in Milwaukee, Appleton, and Beloit.
Wisconsin ARES/RACES	Amateur radio operators statewide are maintaining situational awareness and will forward any relevant reports to the SEOC WC9AAG and the Section Emergency Coordinator.
United Way of Wisconsin	Launched Volunteer Wisconsin website to support organizations who need volunteers.

## EOCs Open:

Tribal – Lac Courte Oreilles, Oneida Nation

County – Bayfield, Brown, Burnett, Dane, Green, Iowa, Kenosha, Lafayette, Lincoln, Marinette, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Pepin, Richland, Rock, Sawyer, Sheboygan, Vernon, Waukesha, Waushara, Wood

## Emergencies Declared:

Tribal – Ho-Chunk Nation, La Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Menominee Tribe, Oneida Nation, Stockbridge-Munsee Band

County – Adams, Calumet, Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Door, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Fond du Lac, Green, Green Lake, Iron, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, Langlade, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Oneida, Ozaukee, Polk, Racine, Richland, Rusk, Sawyer, Sheboygan, Vernon, Washburn, Washington, Waukesha, Waushara

## Current Incident Objectives and Planning Activities

### SEOC Incident Objectives

- Establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) for all state and federal response partners to ensure public messaging is timely and accurate.
- Develop a radio communications plan in order to coordinate critical state functions and assist with de-confliction efforts at state and local levels.
- SEOC to coordinate with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to assess child care center capacity for health care workers prior to 1600 hours on 03/21/2020.

- SEOC to coordinate with Department of Health Services to assess state hospital staffing projections and the potential need for volunteer staff by 1600 hours on 03/21/2020.
- SEOC to assess staffing projections for the SEOC for the next 30 days and make recommendations for staff augmentation and consideration of remote work assignments in order to maintain recommended distancing between workers.
- Initiate request to Legal Affairs to prepare guidance document for local officials related to the isolation or quarantine procedures for non-compliant persons.
- Initiate request to Legal Affairs to develop guidance document for county officials in regards to the differences between a public health emergency and other typical emergency declarations.
- Develop a process for implementation of isolation facilities in Dane and Milwaukee counties by 1600 hours on 03/20/2020.
- Develop a process for warehouse point of distribution of FEMA supplies and materials to support day care centers.
- SEOC will support the Department of Health Services as it executes the Medical Countermeasures Operations Plan in the receipt, prioritization, allocation, and shipment of Strategic National Stockpile resources by 1600 on 3/20/2020.
- Maintain hourly cleaning best practices to minimize the risk of infection by SEOC staff.
- Coordinate with Wisconsin National Guard (WING) to develop the process for field level specimen collection facilities at sites to be determined by Department of Health Services.

## Weather

Updated: 3/19/20 1500 hours

First round of widespread rain and some thunderstorms is moving across Wisconsin this afternoon into tonight. There is a small chance of localized severe thunderstorms in far southern Wisconsin. Damaging winds is the main potential concern. The main window for any severe weather is between 7pm and midnight, mainly in the two rows of counties along the Illinois border. There is a very slim window for a tornado occurring, but that chance appears to be higher in northern Illinois/Iowa.

Space Weather: No issues for GPS/radio communications

Aviation Weather: Low flying conditions are occurring and will continue through Friday, which is when wind gusts will also increase to the 25-30 kt range.

### **River Flooding Situational Awareness:**

Updated: 3/19/20 1500 hours

Much of the state is looking at a 0.5" to 1.25" of precipitation, mainly in the form of rain, today through early Friday. The main area that still has snowpack is the northern third of the state, but this rainfall should not cause a drastic release of snowmelt into the area rivers. A number of rivers are at or forecast to be at minor flood state through the next few days. No moderate to major flooding is currently forecast.

## Open Source Media

'There's a lot of fear': Madison homeless advocates look to innovate in midst of COVID-19.

[https://madison.com/ct/news/local/neighborhoods/there-s-a-lot-of-fear-madison-homeless-advocates-look/article\\_8ff71f5d-e36e-5fa1-ac07-53dee1a2e2ca.html#tracking-source=home-top-story-1](https://madison.com/ct/news/local/neighborhoods/there-s-a-lot-of-fear-madison-homeless-advocates-look/article_8ff71f5d-e36e-5fa1-ac07-53dee1a2e2ca.html#tracking-source=home-top-story-1)

State relaxes some child care rules to meet needs during pandemic

<https://www.wbay.com/content/news/State-relaxes-some-rules--568845791.html>

Wis. National Guard mobilized amid COVID-19 pandemic

<https://wkow.com/2020/03/19/300-national-guard-troops-called-to-active-duty-amid-covid-19-pandemic-response/>

200 at Children's Hospital tested for coronavirus after doctor tests positive

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2020/03/18/milwaukee-childrens-hospital-doctor-tests-positive-200-more-tested/2865851001/>

Almost 7 million California residents ordered to shelter in place

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/16/us/coronavirus-california-shelter-in-place/index.html>

Coronavirus: Festival Foods will close stores overnight to clean, stock shelves

<https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/2020/03/17/coronavirus-festival-foods-close-stores-overnight-stock-clean/5070928002/>

Target stores will close by 9 p.m. daily amid coronavirus; 1st hour reserved for seniors

[https://fox6now.com/2020/03/17/target-stores-will-close-by-9-p-m-daily-amid-coronavirus-1st-hour-reserved-for-seniors/?taid=5e71c83472e8fa00012c069c&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://fox6now.com/2020/03/17/target-stores-will-close-by-9-p-m-daily-amid-coronavirus-1st-hour-reserved-for-seniors/?taid=5e71c83472e8fa00012c069c&utm_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

WHO Now Officially Recommends to Avoid Taking Ibuprofen For COVID-19 Symptoms

<https://www.sciencealert.com/who-recommends-to-avoid-taking-ibuprofen-for-covid-19-symptoms>