

FOREST COUNTY COVID-19 MITIGATION AND RESPONSE PLAN



Forest County Health Department monitors a variety of COVID-19 data metrics to help inform decision making and recommendations. We continue to follow recommendations and guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The recommendations within this plan are subject to change as guidance is updated by the CDC and DHS.

DHS offers regional and county-level data for disease activity, hospital capacity and vaccination that we monitor daily. This data can be viewed here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>

Forest County Health Department’s recommendations within this plan are based on COVID-19 case activity level as determined by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The case activity level is a summary indicator that combines COVID-19 case rate per 100,000 people in the last two weeks (burden) and trajectory, which is the percent change in cases from the previous to the current week. The case activity level is either low, medium, high, very high, or critically high. Recommendations for critically high and very high case activity are combined in this plan.

Forest County COVID-19 Disease Activity Levels Explained

Disease activity level, burden and trajectory data for Forest County is provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and can be viewed here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>

This data is updated on a weekly basis and uses the data from the previous two weeks.

Burden (total number of cases per 100,000 in the last two weeks)			
<i>Burden (case rate per 100,000)</i>		<i>Burden (case rates) in percentages</i>	
Low	Case rate less than 10 per 100,000	Low	0.0001%
Moderate	Case rate 10 – 50 per 100,000	Moderate	0.0001% - 0.0005%
Moderately high	Case rate 50 – 100 per 100,000	Moderately high	0.0005% - 0.001%
High	Case rate 100 – 350 per 100,000	High	0.001% - 0.0035%
Very high	Case rate 350 – 1000 per 100,000	Very high	0.0035% - 0.01%
Critically high	Case rate over 1000 per 100,000	Critically high	Over 0.01%

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Burden (case rates) for Forest County with a population of 9,004	
Low	0.9 cases in the previous two weeks
Moderate	0.9 – 4.5 cases in the previous two weeks
Moderately high	4.5 – 9 cases in the previous two weeks
High	9 – 31.5 cases in the previous two weeks
Very high	31.5 – 90 cases in the previous two weeks
Critically high	Over 90 cases in the previous two weeks

Trajectory Status	Value (change from prior 7-day period to most recent 7-day period)
Shrinking	Percent change in cases is less than or equal to negative 10 percent, and is statistically significant (p-value is less than 0.025).
Growing	Percent change in cases is greater than or equal to 10 percent, and is statistically significant (p-value is less than 0.025)
No Significant Change	Any other conditions besides those that meet the “shrinking” or “growing” statuses described above.

Trajectory is the percent case change from the previous to the current week and indicates whether the change is statistically significant.

Disease Activity Level: based on burden cases per 100,000 and case trajectory in the last two weeks	
Critically High	Burden is critically high and trajectory is shrinking, no significant change, or growing.
Very High	Burden is very high and trajectory is shrinking, no significant change, or growing.
High	Burden is moderate and trajectory is growing. Burden is moderately high and trajectory is no significant change or growing. Burden is high and trajectory is shrinking, no significant change or growing.
Medium	Burden is low and trajectory is growing. Burden is moderate and trajectory is shrinking or no significant change. Burden is moderately high and trajectory is shrinking.
Low	Burden is low and trajectory is shrinking or no significant change.

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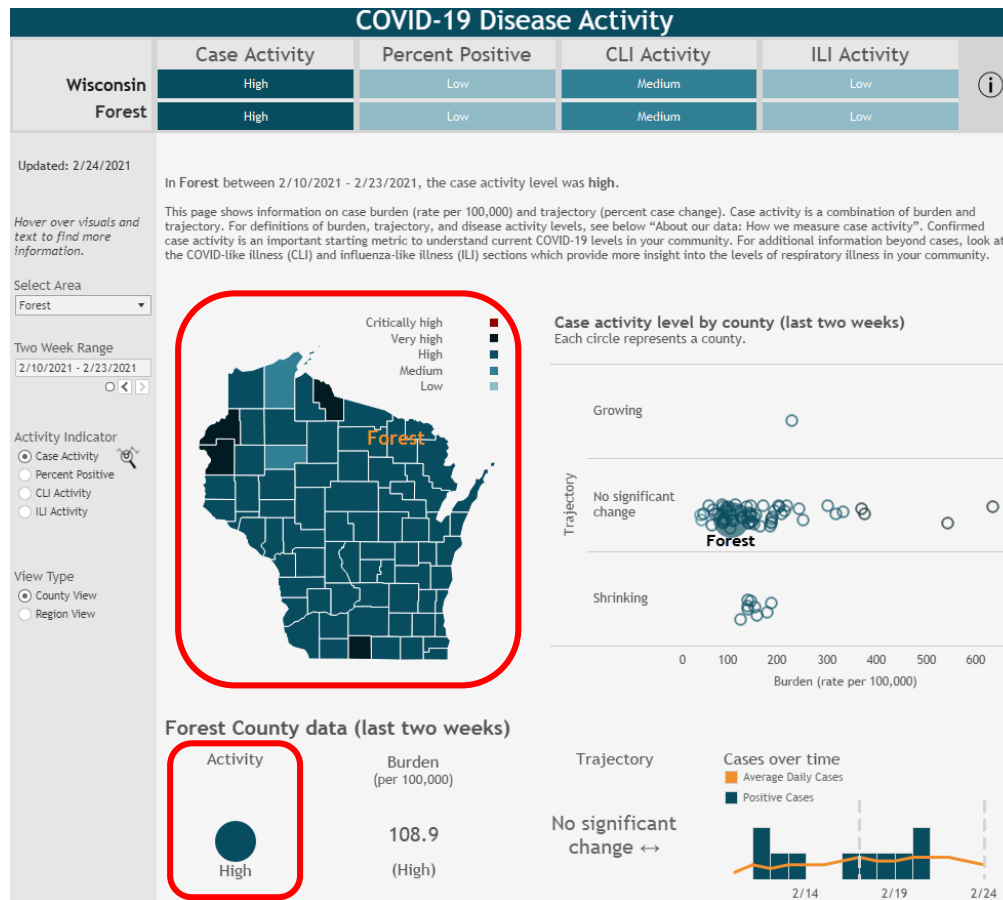


Current Forest County COVID-19 data is updated and published weekly on Fridays and can be viewed here:

<https://infogram.com/covid-dashboard-1hnq4100mwrp23?live>

You can also view statewide, regional and county specific data at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>.

This data is updated weekly by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Disease activity level is displayed in the areas outlined in red below on the DHS website.



<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>

Adopted: 3/22/2021

Updated: 5/25/2021

Implementing Mitigation Strategies

Community Members

Best Practices

- Practice physical distancing of 6 feet when around others.
- Stay at home when you are sick.
- Practice good hygiene and cleaning.
- Wear a face covering when in public.
- Stay home when you are sick; go in for testing if you think you have COVID.
- Follow public health recommendations and orders especially isolation and quarantine orders when sick or exposed.
- Households with vulnerable members should take precautions to protect vulnerable residents from household members who may pose unintentional risk.
- Use virtual options to meet others versus face to face (doctors visit, meeting friends, services, purchasing, etc)

	Disease Activity Level			
Community Members	Critically/Very High	High	Medium	Low
Gatherings	Avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people if physical distancing is not possible	Avoid gatherings of 50 or more if physical distancing is not possible	Avoid gatherings of 100 or more if physical distancing is not possible	Avoid gatherings of 250 or more if physical distancing is not possible
Travel	Stay home, leave only for essential trips.	Avoid unnecessary travel. View Centers for Disease Control U.S. map with information by state.	Follow best personal protective measures (i.e. stay home if you are sick, wash your hands, clean	Follow best personal protective measures (i.e. stay home if you are sick, wash your hands, clean frequently

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		Follow best personal protective measures (i.e. stay home if you are sick, wash your hands, clean frequently touched surfaces, wear a face covering.)	frequently touched surfaces, wear a face covering.)	touched surfaces, wear a face covering.)
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Businesses, Worksites, Organizations

Best Practices

- Follow the guidance issued by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to maximize health and safety <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines> as well as licensing regulations https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/Covid19FoodSupplyDelivery.aspx
- Develop flexible personnel policies.
- Implement symptom monitoring for staff.
- Follow public health isolation and quarantine recommendations for employees.
- Implement work practices and engineering controls such as physical distancing, proper cleaning and disinfection and not sharing equipment and other supplies.

Additional considerations for Retail, Restaurants, Bars and Lodging

- Consider spacing of tables and bar stool to allow for physical distancing.
- Remove unnecessary touchpoints, especially those that cannot be sanitized.
- Consider using alternatives to lines, such as allowing customers to wait in their cars and scheduling pick ups or entries into business.
- Consider ceasing self-service or self-dispensing operations or any type of food or beverage.
- Accommodate vulnerable populations by having dedicated shopping times for those individuals.

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Businesses, Worksites, Organizations	Disease Activity Level			
	Critically/Very High	High	Medium	Low
Essential infrastructure – business, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture	Yes – with best practices	Yes – with best practices	Yes – with best practices	Yes – with best practices
Non-essential offices/workplaces	Yes – with exemptions. Consider remote working if feasible, active symptom monitoring of staff, physical distancing, face coverings	Yes – 25% capacity with best practices	Yes – 50% capacity with best practices	Yes – 75% capacity with best practices
Grocery stores, pharmacies, lodging	Yes – with best practices. No dine in, no self-service Lodging – closure of pools, hot tubs, exercise facilities	Yes – with best practices. Dine in 25% capacity, no self-service. Lodging – closure of pools, hot tubs, exercise facilities	Yes – with best practices. Dine in 50% capacity, no self-service	Yes – with best practices. Dine in 75% capacity
Restaurants and Bars	No – limit to carry out and delivery	Yes – 25% capacity with best practices. No self-service. Consider outdoor seating options	Yes – 50% capacity with best practices. No self-service	Yes – 75% capacity with best practices
Retail	Mail, delivery, and curbside pickup options	Yes – 50% capacity with best practices	Yes – 50% capacity with best practices	Yes – 75% capacity with best practices
Salons, Tattoo parlors, spas	No	Yes – 25% capacity with best practices	Yes – 50% capacity with best practices	Yes – 75% capacity with best practices
Gyms/Recreational Facilities	No – minimum basic operations	Yes – 25% capacity with best practices	Yes – 50% capacity with best practices	Yes – 75% capacity with best practices
Religious Organizations	Yes – maximum 10 people with best practices	Yes – 25% capacity with best practices	Yes – 50% capacity with best practices	Yes – 75% capacity with best practices

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Recreation and Amusement

Best Practices:

- Follow the guidance issued by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to maximize health and safety <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines> as well as licensing regulations https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/Covid19FoodSupplyDelivery.aspx
- To the extent possible, make reservation and payment options available online or by phone.
- Allow for physical distancing and follow recommended occupancy limits.
- Ensure high touch areas including door handles, rides, games, restroom facilities, public common areas, equipment, etc. are disinfected regularly.
- Monitor disease spread in the community and postpone events when appropriate.

Recreation and Amusement activities	Disease Activity Level			
	Critically/Very High	High	Medium	Low
Low contact recreational activities (tennis, pickle ball, etc.)	Yes- with household members	Yes- with best practices	Yes- with best practices	Yes- with best practices
High contact recreational activities (basketball, football, etc.)	No	Yes- with best practices	Yes- with best practices	Yes- with best practices
Playgrounds	No	Yes- with best practices	Yes- with best practices	Yes- with best practices
Indoor and outdoor recreation (movie theaters, clubs, skating rink, pools, camping, beaches, etc.)	No	Yes- with best practices and 25% capacity	Yes- with best practices and 50% capacity	Yes- with best practices and 75% capacity
Outdoor festivals/amusement	No	Yes- with best practices, 50 people maximum and/or 25% capacity	Yes- with best practices, 150 people maximum and/or 50% capacity	Yes- with best practices and 300 people maximum and/or 75% capacity

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Mass or Social Gatherings

Best Practices

- Individuals should avoid gatherings where they are unable to exercise appropriate physical distancing.
- Follow current recommendations by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Forest County Health Department.
- Frequent cleaning and disinfection of high touch/common areas is recommended.
- Face covering should be worn when around individuals who are not from your household.
- No sharing of equipment, supplies, or food (i.e. potluck) is recommended.
- Monitor disease spread in the community and postpone events when appropriate.

	Disease Activity Level			
Mass or Social Gatherings	Critically/Very High	High	Medium	Low
Gatherings	Yes- less than 10 people with best practices	Yes- maximum 50 and/or 25% capacity with best practices	Yes- maximum 150 and/or 50% capacity with best practices	Yes- maximum 300 and/or 75% capacity with best practices

Public and Private Schools and Child Care Centers

School districts, summer schools and summer camps should follow the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and Wisconsin Department of Health Services guidelines:

- [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction COVID-19 Guidelines](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Health Services COVID-19 School Guidelines](#)

Youth sports should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Considerations for Youth Sports](#)

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Child Care Center settings should follow the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families and Wisconsin Department of Health Services guidelines:

- [Wisconsin Department of Children and Families COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Health Services COVID-19 Child Care Guidelines](#)

Youth and Summer Camps should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines:

- [CDC Guidance for Operating Youth and Summer Camps During COVID-19](#)

Long Term Care/Assisted Living

Long Term Care facilities, Nursing Homes, and Assisted Living facilities should follow all regulatory authority guidelines from the Wisconsin Division of Quality Assurance and recommendations from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

- [Wisconsin Division of Quality Assurance](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Health Services COVID-19 Nursing Home Guidance](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Health Services COVID-19 Assisted Living Guidance](#)

Vaccination Considerations

Activity Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Individuals

On May 13, 2021, the CDC released updated guidance that fully vaccinated people can resume activities they did before the pandemic, including participating in indoor and outdoor activities-large and small-without wearing a mask or physically distancing. Fully vaccinated people can also refrain from testing following a known exposure unless they are residents or employees of a correctional or detention facility or a homeless shelter. A person is considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 if it has been two or more weeks since they got the second dose in a two-dose series (such as Pfizer or Moderna), or one dose of a single dose vaccine (such as Johnson & Johnson).

With these guidance updates, there are important exceptions where everyone, including those who are fully vaccinated, should continue to wear a mask. These exceptions include:

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- Health care settings
- K-12 schools
- Correctional and detention facilities
- Homeless shelters
- Public transportation
- Places where masks are required by local or tribal health laws, rules and regulations, including local businesses and workplaces

References:

Wisconsin Department of Health Services Slowing the Spread of COVID-19: Mitigation Strategies for Wisconsin Communities:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02789.pdf>

Wisconsin Department of Health Services:

COVID-19: Disease Activity by Region and County - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>

COVID-19: Schools and Child Care - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/schools.htm>

COVID-19: Nursing Homes - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/nursing-homes.htm>

COVID-19: Assisted Living - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/assisted-living.htm>

COVID-19: Decision Tool for Individuals and Families - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/decision.htm>

COVID-19: After You Get the Vaccine - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-after.htm>

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation: Reopen Guidelines - <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>

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