MILWAUKEE– Rising COVID-19 case numbers in the latest compilation of gating metrics has moved a key indicator into the red category. In this first report since the year-end holidays, a statistically significant growing number of COVID-19 cases is present. As infections in our community remain at a high level, Order #4.3 remains in place.

“This latest information reinforces the importance of masks, distancing, and avoiding group settings,” Acting Commissioner Marlaina Jackson said. “As the Milwaukee Health Department starts distributing COVID-19 vaccines, our community still must maintain precautions in order to crush COVID in the months ahead.”

The current Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) public health order uses a measured, phased approach based on data-driven gating criteria that aligns with federal and state guidance. The order is available online at milwaukee.gov/MMFS. Below are the Five Key Indicators and Gating Criteria that drive our City’s advancement through the phases and guide our reopening.
These measures are reassessed every Friday but advancement through the phases can only occur 14 days after we are in a new phase. This week, testing and cases are listed in the red category.

**Reminder** – Masks are required per the MKE Cares mask ordinance, which went into effect on July 16, 2020 for the city of Milwaukee. Please report business violations of the mask laws and Order #4.3 by calling 414-286-3674 or emailing cehadmin@milwaukee.gov. Complaints will remain anonymous. Free MHD masks are available for households and individuals. Free mask sites locations throughout the city are continually updated online at milwaukee.gov/masks.

Under order #4.3, restaurants and bars are required to submit their Business COVID Safety Plan and fill out the [Risk Assessment Tool](milwaukee.gov/MMFS/SafetyPlan) to continue in person dining. (Deadline was September 15, 2020, but submittals continue to be accepted). The facility’s COVID safety plan is comprised of two pieces. A complete safety plan is comprised of supporting documentation that addresses the components of the Risk Assessment Tool. The Risk Assessment Tool can be located at: milwaukee.gov/MMFS/SafetyPlan. Documents should be sent to cehadmin@milwaukee.gov with the subject line “COVID SAFETY PLAN: [insert name and address].” They can also be mailed in dropped into the drop box located in the Zeidler Municipal Building, on the first floor, by the lead and vital records department.

The Zeidler Municipal Building
841 N. Broadway
Milwaukee, WI 53202
8am - 430pm
Mon - Fri
Closed on the Weekends

There are a variety of resources for schools and businesses available online on our school resource webpage located at: milwaukee.gov/MMFS/Schools. Reminder—the MHD is continuing to review COVID-19 safety plans for schools that are located in the City of Milwaukee and desire to have options aside from virtual. Plans are reviewed in the order that they are received and prioritized by the open date. Schools will receive an approval letter from the Commissioner of Health. Additionally, the City of Milwaukee has and will continue to provide a webinar series to business owners and operators with sector specific guidance. Please visit our website milwaukee.gov/MMFS/SafetyPlan for more information on COVID-19 safety plan submission and webinars.

The City of Milwaukee key indicators for Moving Milwaukee Forward Safely are updated weekly and are available online at milwaukee.gov/coronavirus.

Milwaukee Health Department Order #4.3 is scheduled to remain in effect until January 15, 2021 at which time the department anticipates returning to the previous Order #4.2. That will ease some bar and restaurant capacity limits and modify restrictions on team sports.

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