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The City of Milwaukee Order #4.4 Update

MILWAUKEE—The gating criteria monitored by the Milwaukee Health Department maintained a relatively positive outlook this week as two of the five metrics, both hospital bed usage and testing, remained in the green category. The other gating criteria, including the important “cases” category remained yellow as there was no significant direction in the overall number of COVID-19 cases. These gating criteria track key indicators in the COVID-19 pandemic, and they are used to determine the restrictions and precautions incorporated in the department’s public health order.

Milwaukee remains under Order #4.4 which went into effect one week ago, and that order requires specific precautions and place limitations on gatherings and activities.

The COVID-19 virus continues to be detected at unacceptably high levels in Milwaukee and infections, hospitalizations, and deaths remain major public health issues here.

“There is reason to be both hopeful and cautious at this stage. The average number of new COVID infections are as low as they have been since September. At the same time, new variants of the virus are emerging, and positive trends could quickly reverse,” Acting Commissioner Marlaina Jackson said. “If we are going to crush COVID-19, we must continue to use masks, avoid groups of people, and keep six feet apart from others.”

Vaccination efforts at the Wisconsin Center continue with thousands of doses being administered weekly. Milwaukee residents ages 65 and older can make appointments through the Health Department’s scheduling portal at milwaukee.gov/covidvax. Because of restrictions in the supply of vaccine, only a limited number of people seeking appointments are able to sign up. Each week, as the Health Department receives notification of its vaccine allocation, new slots open on the schedule. City residents without internet access can schedule appointments by calling 414-286-6800.

The Health Department continues to offer COVID-19 testing at the Southside Health Center, the Northwest Health Center, and American Family Field (formerly Miller Park). Some hours and mobile testing locations have changed recently, so the most up to date information about testing is available at Milwaukee.gov/covidtesting or by calling 414-286-6800. People with COVID-19 symptoms and everyone potentially exposed to someone infected with COVID-19 are encouraged to be tested.

On Tuesday, February 15th President Joe Biden is scheduled to visit Milwaukee for an appearance at the Pabst Theater. The Milwaukee Health Department is working with the venue and the event team to verify that appropriate COVID safety precautions are in place.

Below are the Five Key Indicators and Gating Criteria that drive our City’s advancement through the phases and guide our reopening.
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 #4.4 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 #4.4, restaurants and bars are required to submit their Business COVID Safety Plan and fill out the Risk Assessment Tool to continue in person dining. 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].”

There are a variety of resources for schools and businesses available. Our school resource webpage is located at: milwaukee.gov/MMFS/Schools. 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. Please visit our website milwaukee.gov/MMFS/SafetyPlan for more information on COVID-19 safety plan submission.

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

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