

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 1, 2021

Contact: Jeff Fleming

(414) 286-8580

jeff.fleming@milwaukee.gov

The City of Milwaukee Order Phase 6 Update

MILWAUKEE– Again this week, the gating criteria monitored by the Milwaukee Health Department show negative trends in both the seven-day rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people and the percentage of positive COVID-19 tests. The measurement of the rate of cases per 100,000 remains in the “substantial transmission” category.

The gating criteria trends have prompted a review of the current public health order. Changes to that order are possible later in April if the presence of COVID-19 continues at the current rate.

“Vaccination efforts continue to expand in Milwaukee, but that is not diminishing the rise in COVID-19 cases here. Basic precautions including masks, distancing, hand washing, and avoiding groups are the keys to limiting the spread of the virus,” Commissioner Kirsten Johnson said. “Changes in the public health order, including additional restrictions, are under consideration. We need to take appropriate steps to prevent additional illness, hospitalizations, and deaths.”

Milwaukee’s mask ordinance (MCO ch. 62-8) continues to require appropriate face covering while the city’s public health order is in place. This week’s ruling from the Wisconsin Supreme Court regarding mask requirements does not affect the rules in the city of Milwaukee.

Significant changes start next week in vaccination access in the city of Milwaukee. Governor Tony Evers announced on Tuesday that all Wisconsin residents who are aged 16 and older will be eligible for vaccinations starting April 5th. Also, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is expanding its role at the Wisconsin Center vaccination site next week which will free up local staff to focus on community vaccination efforts in areas of Milwaukee where vaccination rates are lagging. The Milwaukee Health Department will continue to have some site management responsibility at the Wisconsin Center along with roles in dose preparation and vaccination.

Vaccination appointments are available through the Health Department’s scheduling portal and vaccine information hub at milwaukee.gov/covidvax. People without internet access can schedule appointments by calling 414-286-6800.

COVID-19 testing continues to be available at several city locations. At American Family Field, testing is available three days each week, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:00 am until 6:00 pm. At the Southside Health Center and the Northwest Health Center, testing is available six days per week from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. 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.

Below are the Gating Criteria that drive our City’s advancement through the phases and guide our reopening.

Moving Milwaukee Forward Safely Gating Metric Review March 18-April 1



Metric	Status – March 18	Status – March 25	Status – April 1
This metric determines current disease burden. Increased burden increases rates of transmission			
Rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 over 7 days	Yellow Moderate Transmission 45.8	Orange Substantial Transmission 68.3	Orange Substantial Transmission 97.9
This metric determines percent positivity. Percent positivity indicates test availability and transmission trends			
Percentage test positivity over 7 days	Blue Low Transmission 2.4%	Blue Low Transmission 3.8%	Blue Low Transmission 4.9%
Vaccination rate is calculated based on the City of Milwaukee’s adult population (individuals 16 or older)			
City Adult Vaccination Rate	8.5%	10.4%	13.1%

Data Source: Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) and Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS)
The metrics used to determine re-opening phases was updated on 3/18/2021 based on CDC guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html>) and best practices for Milwaukee

milwaukee.gov/MMFS
MHD 04/01/21

Reminder – Masks are required per the MKE Cares mask ordinance in the city of Milwaukee. Please report business violations of the mask laws or the current public health order by calling 414-286-3674 or emailing cehadmin@milwaukee.gov. Complaints can remain anonymous. Free MHD masks are available for households and individuals. View free mask locations at milwaukee.gov/masks.

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

###