

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## The City of Milwaukee Order Phase 6 Update

MILWAUKEE– COVID-19 vaccinations are now widely available, and public health orders remain in place. Even so, virus infections in Milwaukee continue at much higher rates than last month at this time.

The gating criteria monitored by the Milwaukee Health Department continue to raise concern. The seven-day rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people stands at 95.6, a number that shows “substantial transmission.” The percentage of positive tests increased to 5%, elevating that metric to “moderate transmission.”

Based on these gating metrics, the Milwaukee Health Department anticipates changing the public health order next week from Phase 6 to Phase 5. That change will reduce capacity limits. Many locations with approved safety plans will not be substantially affected by the move to Phase 5. More information about the public health order phasing is available at [milwaukee.gov/mmf](http://milwaukee.gov/mmf).

“It seems counterintuitive. At a time when vaccinations are available and everyone is aware of safe practices, we should see COVID-19 infection rates declining. That is not the case,” Commissioner Kirsten Johnson said. “The presence of newer, easily transmitted COVID variants is one likely culprit; another factor is COVID-fatigue. With the finish line in sight, we all need to take every reasonable precaution to limit the spread of the virus.”

COVID-19 variants, including the B.1.1.7 or UK variant, are present in Milwaukee. This particular variant is associated with increased transmission and more significant health consequences including death.

Vaccine eligibility and availability changed this week as all Wisconsin residents ages sixteen and over can now receive the COVID-19 vaccine. For the first time, the supply of vaccine is sufficient to meet the demand at the Wisconsin Center vaccination site and at community vaccination sites. Same-day appointments were available at the Wisconsin Center site, and, at least temporarily, walk-ins were welcome there.

Vaccination appointments can still be made through the Health Department’s scheduling portal and vaccine information hub at [milwaukee.gov/covidvax](http://milwaukee.gov/covidvax). People without internet access can schedule appointments by calling 414-286-6800.

Starting Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, the COVID-19 testing at American Family Field will be changing. Testing will now be available Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. The location in the stadium parking lot is moving east to the “Yount” lot. COVID-19 testing continues to be available at the Southside Health Center and the Northwest Health Center 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](http://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 8



Metric	Status – March 18	Status – March 25	Status – April 1	Status – April 8
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	Orange Substantial Transmission 95.6
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%	Yellow Moderate Transmission 5.0%
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%	16.3%

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](https://milwaukee.gov/MMFS)  
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**Reminder** – Milwaukee’s mask ordinance (MCO ch. 62-8) continues to require appropriate face covering while the city’s public health order is in place. Please report business violations of the mask laws or the current public health order by calling 414-286-3674 or emailing [cehadmin@milwaukee.gov](mailto:cehadmin@milwaukee.gov). Complaints can remain anonymous. Free MHD masks are available for households and individuals. View free mask locations at [milwaukee.gov/masks](https://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](https://milwaukee.gov/coronavirus).

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