

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The City of Milwaukee Order Phase 6 Update

MILWAUKEE– The gating criteria monitored by the Milwaukee Health Department show a new, negative development as the seven-day trend in the rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people moved from “moderate transmission” to “substantial transmission” this week. This development is raising concerns about a reversal in the progress Milwaukee has made over the past weeks.

Another gating criteria, the percentage of positive tests for COVID-19, continued in the “low transmission” category as it rose from 2.4% to 3.8%. Progress was reflected in the city’s adult vaccination rate which climbed over 10% this week.

“This is no time to let down our guard. COVID-19 remains a potentially deadly threat in Milwaukee. The Milwaukee Health Department wants everyone to keep up with precautions that check the spread of the disease including masking, distancing, washing hands, and avoiding groups,” Commissioner Kirsten Johnson said. “As more people receive vaccinations, we should be seeing transmission reduced, but the presence of new COVID variants combined with less attention to safety measures could move us in the wrong direction.”

We know that the B.1.1.7 COVID-19 variant, the so-called U.K. variant, is present in our community. This variant spreads more easily and is associated with more severe medical consequences. It is likely the increase in the disease presence in our community is, at least partially, associated with the variant.

The Milwaukee Health Department continues to expand access to the COVID-19 vaccine. This week, walk-in vaccination clinics were opened at both North Division High School and South Division High School. These clinics target residents of the ten Milwaukee zip codes identified as both low-vaccination and high-vulnerability areas. All adults living in these zip codes are now eligible to receive the vaccine, and, in the first four days of operation, these two sites vaccinated more than 3,100 people.

Next week, vaccination clinics are planned at libraries, churches, and shelters. Of particular note are the vaccination clinics in the Amani and Metcalfe Park neighborhoods supported by the Northwestern Mutual Foundation. On Saturday from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm, the first of those clinics will be open at the COA Goldin Center at 2320 West Burleigh Street. On Wednesday, a clinic will be open at the Wisconsin Black Historical Society from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm at 2620 West Center Street.

In addition to the walk up clinics mentioned above, individuals meeting the eligibility criteria can sign up for vaccination appointments 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.

A minor glitch occurred this week at the Wisconsin Center vaccination site where two individuals who were scheduled to receive a second dose of the Moderna vaccine instead received a Pfizer dose. The Centers for Disease Control has guidance for situations such as this which says people who have received mixed vaccinations are considered fully vaccinated. Vaccine recipients have been notified, and internal protocols have been modified to avoid a repetition of this situation.

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](https://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-March 25



Metric	Status – March 18	Status – March 25
This metric determines current disease burden. Increased burden increases rates of transmission		
Rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 over 7 days	<p>Yellow Moderate Transmission</p> <p>45.8</p>	<p>Orange Substantial Transmission</p> <p>68.3</p>
This metric determines percent positivity. Percent positivity indicates test availability and transmission trends		
Percentage test positivity over 7 days	<p>Blue Low Transmission</p> <p>2.4%</p>	<p>Blue Low Transmission</p> <p>3.8%</p>
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%

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 03/25/21

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.

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