

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Date:** June 19, 2020

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Email: sbenja@milwaukee.gov**The City of Milwaukee is still in Phase 3 of its COVID-19 Orders**

MILWAUKEE - On May 15, 2020, the City of Milwaukee Health Department issued a public health and safety order 'Moving Milwaukee Forward.' This order uses a measured, phased approach that utilizes data-driven gating criteria that align with federal and state guidance. This plan outlines the measures needed at this point in time for the City of Milwaukee based on the latest science. Milwaukee has made steady progress in reducing the impact of COVID-19 but we still have a long way to go. We will continue to focus on the importance of continuation and resumption of businesses and activities for all sectors of our economy.

As previously stated, our City's advancement through the phases is driven by our Five Key Indicators and Gating Criteria. These measures are reassessed every Friday but advancement through the phases can only occur 14 days after we are in a new phase. This enables us to hold steady for one incubation period or 14-days before considering a move to the next phase. Since the testing indicator was red earlier last week, we will need to remain in Phase 3 for another 7 days. We will reevaluate if we will advance to Phase 4 next Friday, June 26th.

Cases: *Measures how much COVID-19 is in our community and its impact.*

As case totals can change dramatically by the day, and averages include outliers, we elected to use a statistical approach called Linear Regression to measure our progress. This statistic uses an industry standard of $p < 0.05$ for statistical significance; this enables us to report the statistic with confidence or accuracy. There have been some challenges in measuring cases. Due to delays in lab reports and processing of cases into our state's surveillance system (Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System or WEDSS), we calculated that it is necessary to omit the last 5 days to account for these factors.

Current Status – GREEN: 14-day significantly negative trend OR percent positive 5% or less for 14 days. Improved status from last week (-0.15 to -0.23) YELLOW.

Testing: *Originally measured as the ability for residents who have symptoms of COVID-19 to access a lab test.*

As stated last week, according to updated data about feasibility of testing measures and % of population, we determined that the testing goal needed to be revised to over 2,000 for green and 1,999- 1,200 for yellow, less than 1,200 is red. We did not adjust for the community testing site numbers as in the previous weeks due to technical issues with WEDSS.

Community testing sites are still available on the north and south sides of Milwaukee. Although the new north side community testing site (Barack Obama High School) was selected and went live Monday 6/1, testing numbers were low at both sites but have been improving. We attribute this to the racial justice and police brutality demonstrations that began last week. Also, the perception of the WI National Guard conducting the community testing may be leading to decreased utilization. We will continue to monitor the efficacy of these sites but we would like to continue to encourage the community, especially those that have engaged in protests and demonstrations that may have increased their risk of exposure to COVID-19 to get tested. Please visit our website for more information on testing locations: www.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus or call 2-1-1.

Current Status – YELLOW: 1,200 – 2,000 tests per day OR 5-10% positive for 5 days (average was 716 daily last week and 10% positivity rate TO 1,084 daily this week and 7.08% positivity rate this week) - No change from last week.

Care: *The percentage of patients in hospitals with COVID-19 and hospital capacity to handle COVID-19 patients.*

Green: 100% of hospitals not in crisis and <10% of hospital patients are COVID+

Current Status – GREEN—per [Milwaukee County COVID-19 Map](#) as of 6/19. No change from since last week.

Safety: *Adequate PPE available for healthcare personnel, long-term care facilities, and first responders. This includes masks, gowns, and gloves.*

Minimum requirement to move forward 8-28 days of all PPE supply for majority of hospitals.

Current Status – GREEN—per [Milwaukee County COVID-19 Map](#) as of 6/19. This is a positive change since last week (YELLOW).

Tracing: *This measure is defined as the ability to count, trace, and monitor COVID-19 cases and outbreaks by MHD.*

As previously stated, the MHD updated this measure to account for the high volume of cases and our increased contact tracing workforce (now at 170 staff). The previous measure focused on aiming to contact all cases within 24 hours of receipt via WEDSS. Due to technical issues with WEDSS, this measure is not a true reflection of our progress. We have updated this measure to our staff's ability to successfully contact COVID positive patients within 3 contact attempts upon receipt. A 7-day average is used. 100-95% is green, 94-50% is yellow, <49% and under is red.

Current Status – YELLOW as of 6/19, 78% of COVID+ residents assigned to MHD for follow up were successfully reached within 3 contact attempts (Decreased from 91% last week to 78% this week) - No change in status since last week.

We are still in Phase 3, therefore businesses and activities are allowed to resume in a measured manner in conjunction with evidence and consistent execution of Physical Distancing and Protective Measure Requirements and Safe Business Practices. There are a variety of resources for businesses by sector that are available online (*please see below*). The City of Milwaukee will also provide a webinar series to business owners and operators with sector specific guidance in the coming weeks. This will be posted on our orders website www.milwaukee.gov/MMFS.

This order is for all establishments within the City of Milwaukee limits. Order 3 includes significant changes for a variety of sectors. Please note, **capacity refers to building occupancy. Business owners and operators have the right to remain closed until we advance through the phases and formally conclude our COVID-19 response efforts:**

- **Beaches** – All individuals and pets shall comply with Physical Distancing and Protective Measure Requirements. Team and contact sports on public beaches remain prohibited.
- **Chartered Fishing Excursions** – **Must be the lesser of the three:** 1) 25% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.
- **Child Care Settings including Youth Programs** – 50% capacity
- **Faith based gatherings** – **Must be the lesser of the three:** 1) 25% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.
- **Garage Sales, Rummage and Yard Sales** - **Must be the lesser of the three:** 1) 25% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.

- **Gatherings in Homes or Public Venues – Must be the lesser of the three:** 1) 25% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.
NOTE- the City of Milwaukee including the MHD and Department of Public Works as well as Milwaukee County Parks has the right to deny permits based on active outbreaks of COVID-19 in our community. The top census tracks for COVID-19 cases are evaluated weekly and will be used during Phase 3 and beyond. Safety is our top concern.
- **Gyms and Athletic Centers – Must be the lesser of the three:** 1) 25% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.
- **Hotels/Motels – 50 % capacity;** The pool, hot tubs and exercise facilities are limited to the lesser of: 1) 25% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.
- **Libraries – Must be the lesser of the three:** 1) 25% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.
- **Places of amusement – Must be the lesser of the three:** 1) 25% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.
- **Retail Establishments – 50% capacity**
- **Restaurants/Bars – 25% capacity**
- **Salons/Spas – 1 client per service provider**
- **Stores - 50% capacity**
- **Youth Summer Programs – 50% capacity**

The following Physical Distancing and Protective Measure Requirements are required for all individuals on the premises (staff and patrons):

- Maintain 6 feet distance between people/patrons
- Promote and conduct hand hygiene with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer
- Promote covering of coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow or tissue not hands)
- Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces and sharing cleaning protocols with staff and patrons;
- Promote non-contact forms of greetings- no handshakes or hugs
- Strongly recommend the use of a mask or cloth face covering. Businesses are allowed to require this as a policy to provide service. We recommend provision of single use masks/mouth coverings for staff and patrons.

Note: the use of masks or cloth face coverings is strongly recommended but shall not be required Citywide for Order 3 due to equity concerns regarding the challenges that either may cause for individuals because of disabilities and/or shortages

The order also states that establishments must follow all other public health recommendations issued by State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Milwaukee County Department of Health & Human Services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and adopt policies to prevent workers from entering the premises if they display respiratory symptoms or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

Additional resources for business owners and operators:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Interim Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)—*Includes sector specific information*

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html#postponing>

Milwaukee Metropolitan Association of Commerce

Coronavirus Guidance for Businesses during the Pandemic

<https://coronavirus-mmacc.org/>

Wisconsin Department of Health Services—Includes information about employer-based outbreaks

COVID-19: Businesses, Employers, and Workers

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/employers.htm>

Wisconsin Department of Trade and Consumer Protection

Resources for reopening/expanding services while reducing the risk of COVID-19:

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/ReopeningRestaurantsCovid19.pdf>

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

COVID-19 Business Resources

<https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/covid-19-response/>

On Friday, June 19, 2020, MHD released its first COVID-19 ISSUE BRIEF to increase awareness about COVID-19 and its impact in our community. This ISSUE BRIEF addresses the increasing number of COVID-19 cases among Hispanic/Latinx individuals under the age of 15 in the city of Milwaukee.

Prior to this increase of cases among youth, there has been an increased incidence of COVID-19 infection among our Hispanic/Latinx community since mid-April. This shows an unjust and unequal difference in disease burden. Out of all COVID-19 cases in the city of Milwaukee, Hispanic/Latinx positive cases account for 40.2% of cases, while positive cases for Black individuals is 31.4% and 11.3% for White individuals. In fact, in the city of Milwaukee, individuals who are Hispanic/Latinx make up only 20.2% of the population, but 40.2% of positive COVID-19 cases. This inequity is also reflected in State of Wisconsin COVID-19 data where individuals who are Hispanic/Latinx make up 7% of the population in Wisconsin, but account for 38% of COVID-19 cases. Furthermore, Hispanics/Latinx test positive for COVID-19 at disproportionate rates in 42 states.

MHD would like to remind parents and youth that they are at risk of COVID-19 infection therefore they must be vigilant to prevent the spread of this disease. Youth may also spread COVID-19 to others that may be at risk of complications or death from the virus. Please visit our website for more information about COVID-19 prevention and access to free testing: <http://city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus>

The COVID-19 ISSUE BRIEF is attached and available online at: city.milwaukee.gov/MMFS.

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