



Waukesha County

Department of Health and Human Services

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES RECOGNIZES COMMUNITY SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN WAUKESHA COUNTY

(WAUKESHA, WI) – The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has included Waukesha County as one of six counties in the state designated to have community transmission of COVID-19. This means that there are people who have tested positive who have no exposures to a known case nor did they travel to a location where there is known community spread. As of March 21, Waukesha County has 21 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Updated numbers of positive cases per county and locations where community spread is being seen are updated on the [DHS Outbreaks website daily at 2 p.m.](#)

“This designation as a county with community spread does not change the way Waukesha County Public Health will do its job of identifying new cases and working to limit exposures and spread,” said Benjamin Jones, Waukesha County Public Health Officer. “What it should do is serve as an important reminder to the community to stay home and stay safe. Even if you are symptom free and not part of an at-risk group, you still need to make deliberate changes to your lifestyle, starting today. Every individual has the power to help limit the risk of community transmission. The number of confirmed cases in Wisconsin of 281 reminds all of us about the importance of social distancing and maintaining excellent hand hygiene.”

Waukesha County Public Health is working diligently to manage this outbreak. Staff is working closely alongside local, state, and federal partners to quickly and effectively respond to cases, contacts, and emerging situations. The Waukesha Emergency Operations Center is activated at level 1, its highest level, in order to enhance this community response to COVID-19.

DHS recommends several strategies for the public to limit the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel (new) coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Stay home if you can and especially when you are sick.
- Practice social distancing. Keep six feet between people and avoid direct physical contact.
- Avoid large public gatherings and crowds.
- [Learn about precautions for high risk and elderly individuals.](#)

This is a rapidly evolving situation. For the latest information, visit the [CDC's website](#), the [DHS website](#), or the Waukesha County coronavirus webpage at: www.waukeshacounty.gov/COVID19.

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