



## Waukesha County Emergency Management COVID-19 Related Definitions

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**COVID-19** is the name of the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and is short for “Coronavirus Disease 2019”.

**Close contact** means anyone who has been within 6 feet of a person infected with the virus for a prolonged period of time, or has had direct contact with the infected person’s secretions.

**Community spread/transmission** means some people have been infected and it is not known how or where they became exposed. It also means a particular geographic location who have no known contact with other infected individuals or who have not recently traveled to an area where the disease has any documented cases.

**Confirmed case** means a person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

**Curfew** limits activities allowed within the jurisdiction of the issuing authority during certain hours of the day.

**Epidemic** is an increase, often sudden, in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected in that population in that area.

**Essential government functions** means all services needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public.

**Flattening the curve** means slowing a virus’ spread to reduce the peak number of cases and related demands on hospitals and infrastructure.

**Home isolation** means persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have been directed to stay at home until they are recovered.

**Isolation** means separating sick people with a contagious disease from those who are not sick.

**Local transmission** indicates locations where the source of infection is within the reporting location.

**Lockdown** means local movement is banned or severely restricted. Travel between jurisdictions is banned or severely restricted. Continuous, multi-day curfew with few exceptions.

**Monitoring** means a state or local public health authority establishes regular communication with a person or group of people who were potentially exposed to the virus by virtue of travel history to identified locations or close contact with confirmed cases.



**Negative-pressure rooms** are specifically designed for patients with contagious diseases that contain any circulating air in the room and prevent it from being released into any other part of the hospital.

**N95 respirator** (face mask) is a personal protective equipment that is used to protect the wearer from airborne particles and from liquid contaminating the face.

**Outbreak** is the occurrence of more cases of a disease than would normally be expected in a specific place or group of people over a given period of time.

#### **Patient Status Definitions:**

**Confirmed:** The patient meets all the criteria necessary to be considered a Patient Under Investigation (PUI), including signs, symptoms and travel history. A lab sample was collected and tested by a CDC-qualified laboratory and the result is positive.

**Suspected:** The patient meets all the criteria necessary to be considered a Patient Under Investigation (PUI), including signs, symptoms and travel history. A lab sample was collected and sent to a CDC-qualified lab, but the results are still pending.

**Exposed:** The person meets the criteria established by the CDC with regards to travel history and/or close contact with a confirmed case, but the individual is not exhibiting any additional signs or symptoms consistent with infection.

**Patient zero** is defined as a person identified as the first to become infected with an illness or disease in an outbreak.

**Pandemic** is an epidemic that has spread over several countries/continents, usually affecting a large number of people or a global outbreak of disease.

**Public Health Supervision** means the person is monitored directly by local public health authorities, in-person or remotely, on a regular basis (e.g. daily).

**Quarantine** requires the isolation or sequestration of individuals or sets of individuals identified by reasonable possibility of exposure. Separation of an individual or group reasonably believed to have been exposed to a quarantinable communicable disease, but who is not yet ill, from others who have not been so exposed, to prevent the possible spread of the quarantinable communicable disease.

**Self-quarantine** means staying home or refrain from any contact with other individuals and away from other people as much as possible after exposure.

**Shelter in place** requires individuals remain where they are when such an order is issued. This is used in response to sudden-onset, short duration incidents. Appropriate for tornados or active shooter.



**Stay at home** defines essential services and critical infrastructure and keeps them open. Closes the physical locations of all other non-essential businesses. Encourages or requires maximizing remote or telework. REQUIRES individuals to stay at home unless performing permissible actions.

**Social distancing** are measures taken to *reduce person-to-person contact* in a given community, with a goal to stop or slow down the spread of a contagious disease. Measures can include working from home, closing offices and schools, canceling events, and avoiding public transportation.

**Super-spreader** and its related noun super-spreading refer to an individual who is highly contagious and capable of transmitting a communicable disease to an unusually large number of uninfected individuals.

#### **Testing Definitions:**

At present, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and antibody testing are the dominant ways that global healthcare systems are testing citizens for Covid-19 with PCR being the primary. The FDA has authorized more than 50 diagnostic tests and engagement with over 350 test developers.

**RT-PCR Test:** Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) analysis is a laboratory technique. RT-PCR, or real time polymerase chain reaction test, is used to detect coronavirus from a nasopharyngeal (nasal secretions) sample, also known as a **nasal swab**.

**Antibody Test:** The antibody test uses a **blood sample** for the test. This test checks to see if individuals have immunity to the COVID-19 virus by looking for a specific antibody in the bloodstream. Antibodies are small proteins that are part of our immune system. They are produced to defend our body against a specific virus, for example, COVID-19. The **blood test** looks for the specific antibodies that fight infection from the coronavirus.

**Saliva Test:** As of April 13, 2020 the FDA approved the use of **saliva samples** as a means of emergency testing for COVID-19. This test is less invasive than taking a nasopharyngeal sample and involves giving a saliva sample in a tube. This new saliva test uses a similar protocol to that of the nasopharyngeal RT-PCR test and amplifies a segment of the viral genetic code to detect the presence of the virus.

**Treatment** means a person is currently receiving active medical treatment for their COVID-19 symptoms and/or related complications.

**Ventilator** is a device that delivers air into the lungs through a tube that is placed into the mouth or nose and down into the windpipe.

**Viral shedding** means the period of time after the virus has replicated in the host and is being emitted.