visited 10/8/2020

STATE REPORT
09.27.2020

WISCONSIN

SUMMARY

- Wisconsin has continued to see a rapid worsening of the epidemic in the last week with the governor declaring a health emergency. Wisconsin is in the red zone for cases, indicating 101 or more new cases per 100,000 population last week, with the 3rd highest rate in the country. Wisconsin is in the orange zone for test positivity, indicating a rate between 8.0% and 10.0%, with the 7th highest rate in the country.
- Wisconsin has seen a decrease in new cases and an increase in test positivity over the last week. The state averaged more than 2,000 cases a day. While cases decreased this week, test positivity and hospitalizations continued to increase sharply through the week.
- Intense virus transmission is seen throughout the state with only a few counties reporting less than 100 cases per 100,000 population. The following three counties had the highest number of new cases over the last 3 weeks: 1. Milwaukee County, 2. Dane County, and 3. Brown County. These counties represent 31.7% of new cases in Wisconsin. Madison/Dane County public health analysis shows a sharp increase in cases not associated with the University of Wisconsin-Madison; analysis of several factors indicates these cases are not "spillover" from campus transmission.
- Institutions of higher education (IHE): University of Wisconsin-Madison reports fewer cases among students in campus testing.
- 82% of all counties in Wisconsin have moderate or high levels of community transmission (yellow, orange, or red zones), with 47% having high levels of community transmission (red zone).
- During the week of Sep 14 - Sep 20, 4% of nursing homes had at least one new resident COVID-19 case, 23% had at least one new staff COVID-19 case, and none had at least one new resident COVID-19 death.
- Wisconsin had 243 new cases per 100,000 population in the last week, compared to a national average of 93 per 100,000.
- Current staff deployed from the federal government as assets to support the state response are: 7 to support operations activities from FEMA; 2 to support testing activities from CDC; 8 to support epidemiology activities from CDC; and 1 to support operations activities from USCG.
- Between Sep 19 - Sep 25, on average, 100 patients with confirmed COVID-19 and 99 patients with suspected COVID-19 were reported as newly admitted each day to hospitals in Wisconsin. An average of 93% of hospitals reported either new confirmed or new suspected COVID patients each day during this period; therefore, this may be an underestimate of the actual total number of COVID-related hospitalizations. Underreporting may lead to a lower allocation of critical supplies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- During the intense period of viral surge, large numbers of acutely infected individuals caused exponential growth in infections. Although young adults are the most affected group currently, spread to other age groups is inevitable. To the maximal degree possible, increase social distancing mitigation measures until cases decline, including through supporting local authorities to pass and enforce mitigation measures.
- Implement the plan for increased surveillance for silent community spread by using the Abbott BinaxNOW or antigen tests, establish weekly surveillance in critical populations to monitor degree of community spread including among K-12 teachers; staff working in nursing homes, assisted living, and other congregate living settings; prison staff; and first responders as tests become available this week. All antigen positive results must be reported with both the number of positives and total tests and these must be reported as COVID cases.
- Given the experience at Wisconsin universities of the importance of entry and surveillance testing, require all universities and colleges to have a plan for reentry testing, rapid testing, and contact tracing of symptomatic students, and periodic surveillance testing of students, with quick turnaround times for results and the rapid isolation of cases and quarantine of contacts.
- Continue to expand testing capacity. Expand university testing utilizing all university, veterinary, and research platforms for surveillance and testing of students. Encourage the use of saliva-based testing. Use expanded capacity to increase testing in the communities surrounding universities. Expand focused wastewater surveillance at IHE to detect cases early.
- Continue to maintain a robust public information campaign directed at high-risk, vulnerable, and diverse populations. Recruit college and university students and community leader associations to expand public health messaging and promote compliance with state recommendations. Expand public messaging to younger demographics, using social media and other messaging platforms, to communicate changes in local epidemic and appropriate actions that should be adopted.
- Ensure all nursing homes, assisted living, and elderly care sites have full testing capacity. Ensure all nursing homes, assisted living, and elderly care sites follow CMS staff testing requirements and, if cases within local universities rise, increase testing even further to prevent spread from students to residents through staff. Ensure staff wear masks at all times and in facilities with workers who tested positive, ensure all residents have been promptly tested and appropriate cohorting measures are in place.
- Specific, detailed guidance on community mitigation measures can be found on the CDC website.

The purpose of this report is to develop a shared understanding of the current status of the pandemic at the national, regional, state and local levels. We recognize that data at the state level may differ from that available at the federal level. Our objective is to use consistent data sources and methods that allow for comparisons to be made across localities. We appreciate your continued support in identifying data discrepancies and improving data completeness and sharing across systems. We look forward to your feedback.

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	STATE, LAST WEEK	STATE, % CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	FEMA/HHS REGION, LAST WEEK	UNITED STATES, LAST WEEK
NEW COVID-19 CASES (RATE PER 100,000)	14,176 (243)	-16%	52,026 (99)	305,449 (93)
VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY RATE	9.5%	+1.1%*	5.0%	4.3%
TOTAL VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TESTS (TESTS PER 100,000)	194,014** (3,332)	+51%**	1,272,540** (2,422)	6,381,570** (1,944)
COVID-19 DEATHS (RATE PER 100,000)	37 (0.6)	-8%	505 (1.0)	5,143 (1.6)
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 CASE (≥1 NEW STAFF CASE)	4% (23%)	+0%* (+3%*)	7% (19%)	9% (20%)
SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 DEATH	0%	N/A	2%	4%

MOBILITY

* Indicates absolute change in percentage points.
** Due to delayed reporting, this figure may underestimate total diagnostic tests and week-on-week changes in diagnostic tests.

DATA SOURCES – Additional data details available under METHODS

Note: Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

Cases and Deaths: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 9/25/2020; last week is 9/19 - 9/25, previous week is 9/12 - 9/18.

Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 9/23/2020. Last week is 9/17 - 9/23, previous week is 9/10 - 9/16.

Mobility: Descartes Labs. This data depicts the median distance moved across a collection of mobile devices to estimate the level of human mobility within a county. The 100% represents the baseline mobility level prior to the pandemic; lower percent mobility indicates less population movement. Data is anonymized and provided at the county level. Data through 9/24/2020.

SNFs: Skilled nursing facilities. National Healthcare Safety Network. Data are reported separately for cases among residents and staff. Last week is 9/14-9/20, previous week is 9/7-9/13.

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COVID-19 COUNTY AND METRO ALERTS*

Top 12 shown in table (full lists below)

	METRO AREA (CBSA) LAST WEEK		COUNTY LAST WEEK	
LOCALITIES IN RED ZONE	12	Green Bay Appleton Oshkosh-Neenah La Crosse-Onalaska Fond du Lac Stevens Point Wausau-Weston Manitowoc Shawano Watertown-Fort Atkinson Menomonie Marinette	34	Brown Outagamie Winnebago La Crosse Eau Claire Washington Fond du Lac Portage Marathon Calumet Manitowoc Jefferson
LOCALITIES IN ORANGE ZONE	8	Milwaukee-Waukesha Eau Claire Racine Whitewater Janesville-Beloit Platteville Sheboygan Wisconsin Rapids-Marshfield	11	Waukesha Racine Walworth Rock Grant Sheboygan Wood Clark Burnett Adams Crawford
LOCALITIES IN YELLOW ZONE	5	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Beaver Dam Baraboo Duluth Iron Mountain	14	Milwaukee Kenosha Dodge Ozaukee Pierce St. Croix Sauk Columbia Green Douglas Iowa Langlade

All Red Counties: Brown, Outagamie, Winnebago, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Washington, Fond du Lac, Portage, Marathon, Calumet, Manitowoc, Jefferson, Shawano, Oconto, Waupaca, Dunn, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oneida, Green Lake, Monroe, Trempealeau, Door, Forest, Waushara, Marquette, Juneau, Lincoln, Vernon, Lafayette, Ashland, Florence, Taylor, Price

All Yellow Counties: Milwaukee, Kenosha, Dodge, Ozaukee, Pierce, St. Croix, Sauk, Columbia, Green, Douglas, Iowa, Langlade, Vilas, Menominee

*** Localities with fewer than 10 cases last week have been excluded from these alerts.**

Note: Lists of red, orange, and yellow localities are sorted by the number of new cases in the last 3 weeks, from highest to lowest. Some dates may have incomplete data due to delays in reporting. Data may be backfilled over time, resulting in week-to-week changes.

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Cases and Deaths: State values are calculated by aggregating county-level data from USAFacts; therefore, the values may not match those reported directly by the state. Data is through 9/25/2020; last week is 9/19 - 9/25, three weeks is 9/5 - 9/25.

Testing: CELR (COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting) state health department-reported data through 9/23/2020. Last week is 9/17 - 9/23.

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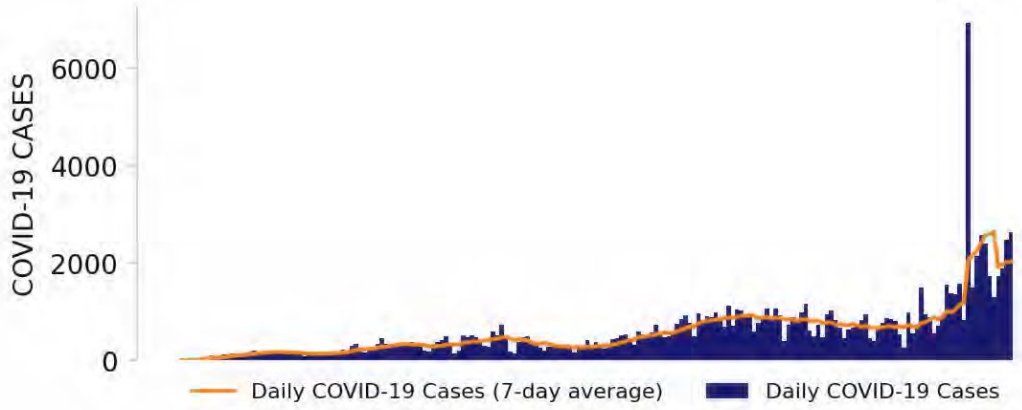
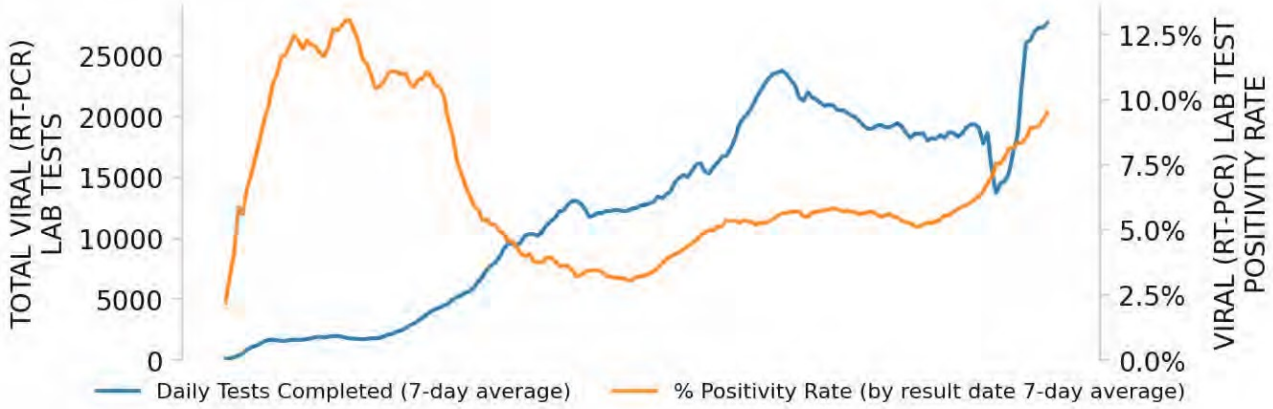
NEW CASES

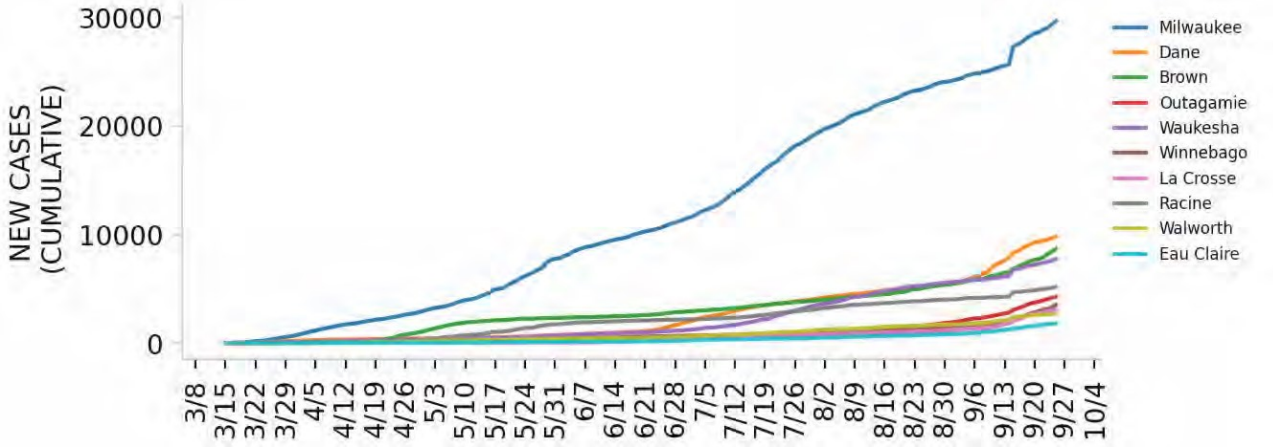


TESTING



TOP COUNTIES

Top counties based on greatest number of new cases in last three weeks (9/5 - 9/25)



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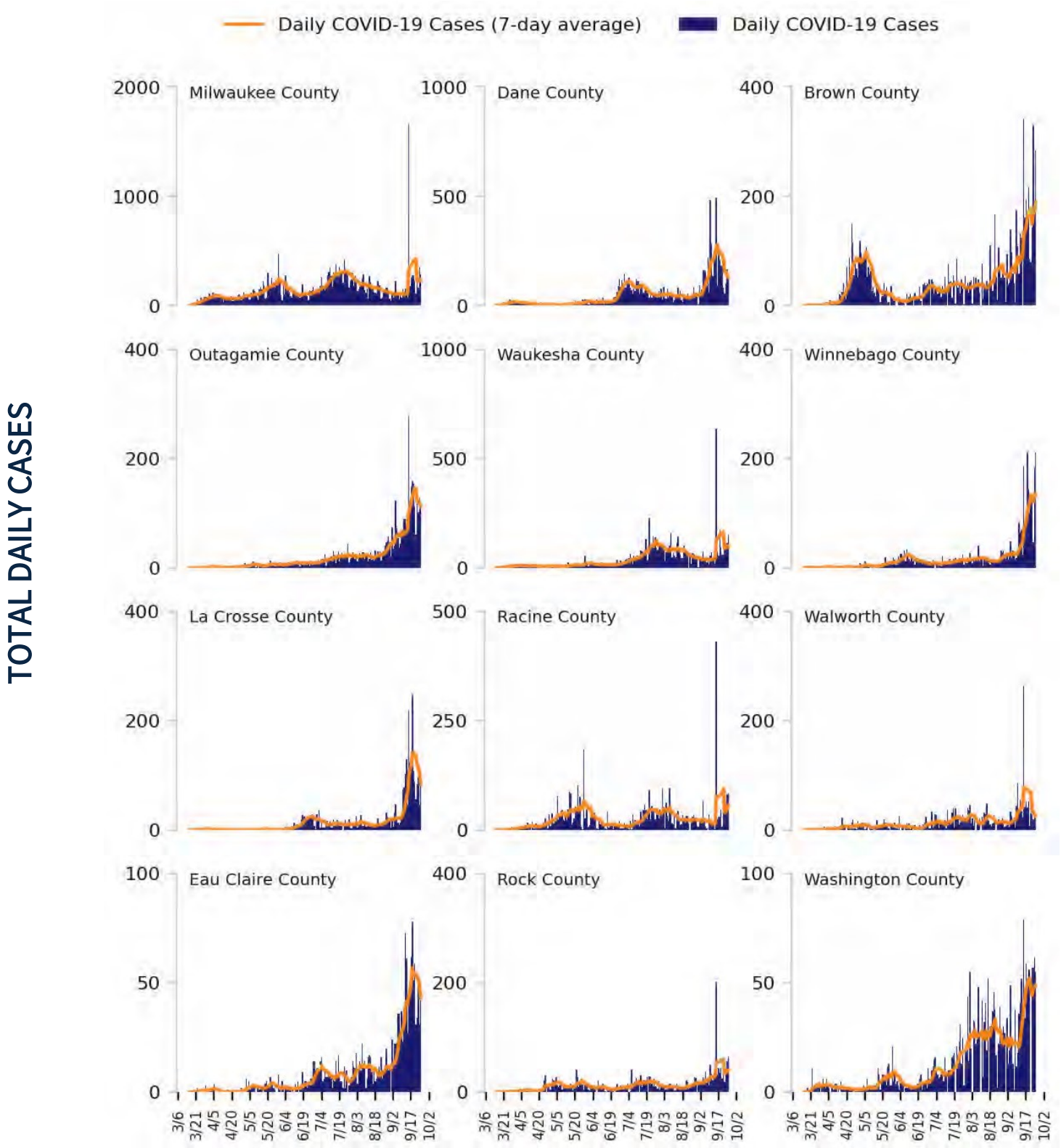
Top 12 counties based on number of new cases in the last 3 weeks



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COVID-19

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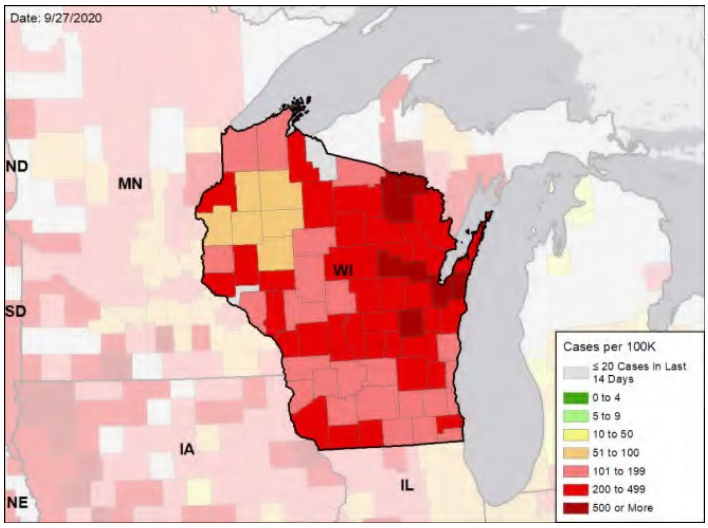
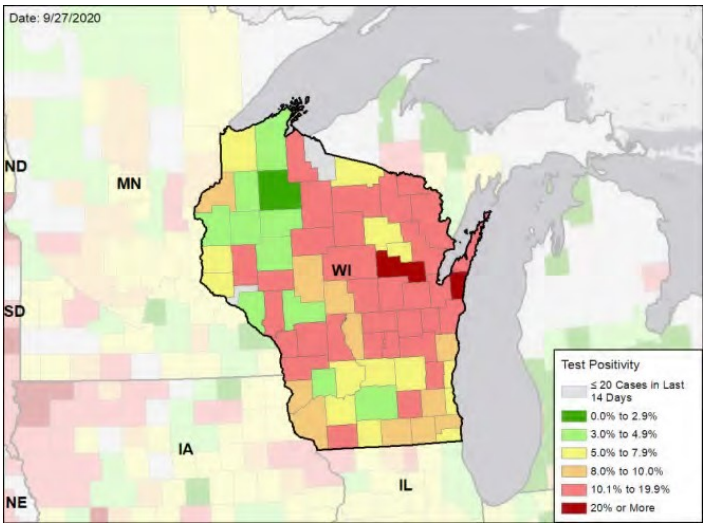
CASE RATES AND VIRAL LAB TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK

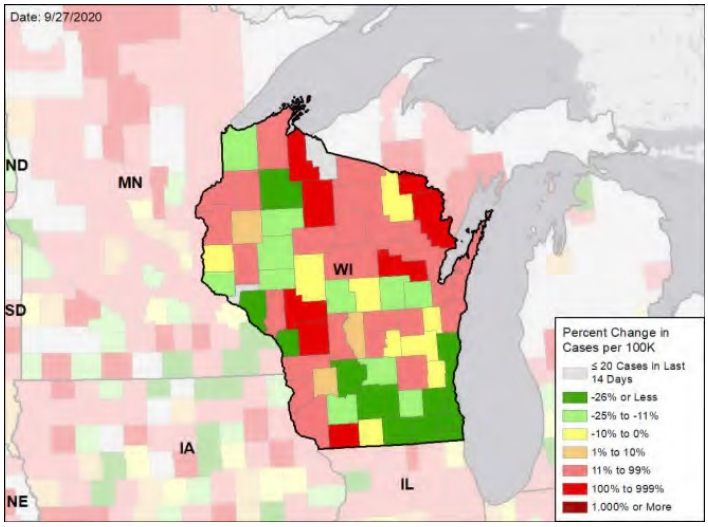
NEW CASES PER 100,000 DURING THE LAST WEEK



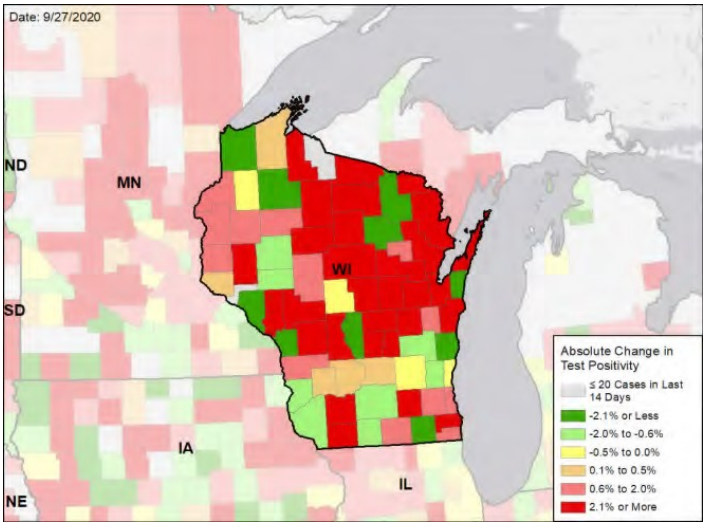
VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK



WEEKLY CHANGE IN NEW CASES PER 100,000



WEEKLY CHANGE IN VIRAL (RT-PCR) LABORATORY TEST POSITIVITY



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