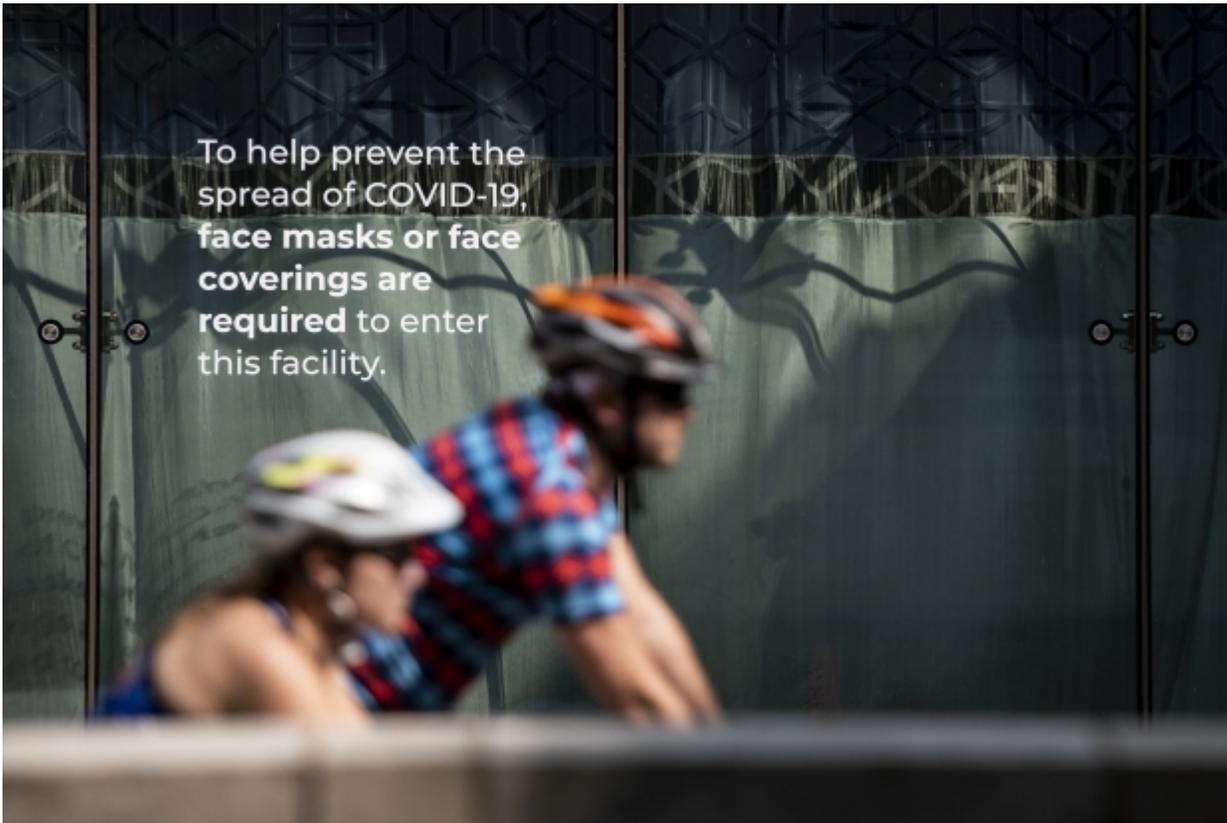


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Bicyclists ride past a message on a window about face mask requirements Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020, at UW-Madison. *Angela Major/WPR*

Wisconsin Sets New Daily Record With 2,034 Coronavirus Cases Reported Thursday

Percentage Of Positive Test Results Jumps To 18 Percent

By WPR Staff

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Wisconsin logged another record-setting day Thursday for new daily reports of COVID-19 cases, according to the latest data published by the state's Department of Health Services.

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DHS reported **2,034 new cases** of the virus Thursday, bringing the average for the past seven days to 1,409 daily cases. One week ago, the average was 1,004 daily cases.

Thursday's new case total is the highest that figure has been since Sunday, when there were 1,582 new cases, which set a new daily record at the time.

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The latest figures bring the overall total of positive cases in Wisconsin to 94,746, according to the DHS. A total of 1,231 people in Wisconsin have died from COVID-19, with three new deaths reported on Thursday.

According to DHS, 18 percent of all test results reported Thursday were positive for COVID-19, bringing the overall percentage of positive tests over the past seven days to 14 percent. That figure has been holding steady since Tuesday.

The percentage of positive cases is often read by public health officials as a measure of overall testing levels. A high rate could indicate that testing in the state is limited, and skewed toward those already flagged as potentially having the virus. A lower rate could indicate testing is more widespread.

Changes in the test positivity rate can also speak to a virus' spread, if the size and makeup of the testing pool stays consistent.

COVID-19 Diagnoses and Deaths in Wisconsin and 7-Day Averages, 2020

A 7-day moving average of new confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths reflect the short term dynamics of the outbreak in Wisconsin.

Note: Scale is adjusted between charts to display trends.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

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Positive Percentage of COVID-19 Tests in Wisconsin, 2020

The percentage of COVID-19 tests that come back positive is also known as the test-positivity rate. As testing expands in Wisconsin, a decreasing test-positivity rate is one potential indicator that the outbreak is coming under control.

Note: The method for calculating the test-positivity rate's 7-day average was updated on Aug. 11. This measure was previously calculated by determining the mean of the daily rates for the week prior, but was changed to be derived from comparing the sum of all positive tests over the previous seven days to the sum of all tests conducted in the same period. The update has a minor effect on the 7-day average's value by weighting all test results equally, regardless of whether they were reported on a day with a high or low test volume, and is applied to every day in this chart.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

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Wisconsin's daily testing capacity — based on the availability of test supplies and adequate staffing — has grown from 120 available lab tests in early March to 38,563 as of Thursday. The number of actual people with test results reported on Thursday was 11,445.

WHYsconsin

What questions or concerns do you have about COVID-19 — either about the virus, prevention or preparation? If you think you have symptoms, call your health care provider.

Your contact info

We'll be in touch if we look into your question.

Name	Email address	Zip Code
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Please contact your health provider if you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 or are showing symptoms. For information on symptoms, visit [the CDC website](#).

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Overall, DHS has recorded a total of 1,399,470 people's test results over the course of the pandemic. 1,304,724 have tested negative.

COVID-19 activity varies heavily from county to county. The latest coronavirus activity data from DHS, released once per week each Wednesday, showed that 71 counties had a "high level" of coronavirus activity. Activity level designations are based on "burden," or the number of new cases per a county's population over a 14-day period, as well as whether there's an upward or downward trend in new cases.

On Wednesday, counties with the highest case rates per capita included La Crosse, Outagamie, Florence and Walworth. The counties with the most significant upward trends included Jackson, La Crosse and Langlade.

There have been confirmed cases in all 72 of Wisconsin's counties, and every Wisconsin county reported at least one new case over the preceding week.

COVID-19 Activity Level In Wisconsin

The state Department of Health Services determines the activity level for disease spread for each county in Wisconsin using the case rate and the percent change in cases over a two-week period. The case rate tracks cases over two weeks per 100,000 people. Each county is assigned one of three categories — high, medium or low. This map is updated every Wednesday.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

DHS still has a [dashboard](#) showing Wisconsin's progress on gating criteria under the now-defunct Badger

COVID-19 Cases, Deaths In Wisconsin

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wisconsin is growing daily. The figures reported here reflect the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' update as of Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020. Reported deaths come from DHS. There are 101,227 confirmed cases.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

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Bounce Back Plan. Those gating criteria would have been used to determine when it would be safe to begin reopening the state, prior to the state Supreme Court ruling that ended a statewide stay-at-home order. The state has never met all six of the criteria at once.

Two of the criteria are a statistically significant 14-day downward trend in COVID-like cases reported in emergency departments, and a similar downward trend for influenza-like cases in emergency departments. The state does not currently meet either of those criteria.

According to DHS, 6,522 [people have been hospitalized because of the virus](#) as of Thursday. That means at least 7 percent of people who have tested positive for the new coronavirus in the state have been hospitalized. DHS officials said they don't know the hospitalization history of 33,275 people, or 35 percent.