April 21st, 2020 Update on COVID-19
(as of 5:00 pm)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS) and the North Shore Health Department (NSHD), along with other local health departments are responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus, COVID-19. For the most current information, visit the CDC’s website or our website.

We are currently monitoring 31 active cases in the North Shore, and we are also providing active monitoring for high-risk contacts of confirmed cases. We have triaged and processed over 883 suspect cases and/or contacts, and performed several large contact investigations, which involves notifying the contacts of their potential risk and educating them on self-quarantine guidelines. We are also managing several active cases in Milwaukee to assist the Milwaukee Health Department.

Governor Evers and WI DHS announced their plan to re-open Wisconsin called the Badger Bounce Back: The phased re-opening is modeled after the President’s Guidelines for Opening Up America. The state will be looking for a downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses and COVID-19 symptoms reported within a 14-day period, and a downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period. When the state has seen these efforts be successful, Wisconsin can begin to turn the dial, re-open the state, and get businesses and workers back on their feet. The Plan Press Release Here Order Here

Key markers to reach in order to progress with the Badger Bounce Back include:
- Increase testing and lab capacity
  - We are working on increasing testing capacity: Press Release Here
- Expand contact tracing to track the spread of COVID-19 – the goal is to interview everyone that tests positive within 24 hours of their test result, and interview all of their contacts within 48 hours.
- Access more PPE and other supplies
- Increase the capacity of the healthcare system to ensure patients are treated without crisis care

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation’s portion of the Badger Bounce Back plan aimed at helping to ensure workers and businesses are prepared and ready to bounce back is available here.

Governor Evers extends Wisconsin’s Safer at Home order through Tuesday, May 26: We are seeing the benefits of the Safer at Home order, as the number of cases has been reduced, many hospitalizations have been prevented, and lives have been saved. Governor Evers addresses the extension of the Safer at Home order in this video: Link Order Here Press Release Here FAQ Here
Changes to the order include:

- Public and private K-12 schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.
- Local health officials may close public parks and open spaces if it becomes too difficult to ensure social distancing or the areas are being mistreated.
- People are strongly encouraged to stay close to home, not travel to second homes or cabins, and not to travel out-of-state if it is not necessary.

**Safe business practices under the new Safer at Home order:**

Essential Businesses must:

- Increase cleaning and disinfection practices
- Ensure that only necessary workers are present
- Adopt policies to prevent workers exposed to COVID-19 or symptomatic workers from coming to work.

Essential retail stores that remain open to the public must:

- Limit the number of people in the store at one time
- Provide proper spacing for people waiting to enter
- Large stores must offer at least two hours per week of dedicated shopping time for vulnerable populations.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](https://dhs.wi.gov), as well as the [NSHD website](https://nsdh.wi.gov). Additional information on COVID-19 can be found on the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).