



# DOOR COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COVID-19 QUESTION AND ANSWER

June 15, 2020

## QUESTION #1

### Why can't more information be disclosed on positive cases, such as location?

Privacy laws prevent the disclosure of protected health information. Individually identifiable information (e.g., name, address, phone number, or email) of individuals infected with or exposed to COVID-19 may not be disclosed to the public or media.

As a result, Door County must be careful when communicating the status of specific COVID-19 cases with the public or media. We may disclose aggregate information about the number of individuals infected with or exposed to COVID-19, but must be careful about revealing information about how the patient was exposed to COVID-19 or general information about where the individual lives, as this may allow the public or media to identify the individual through publicly available sources.

Some health departments have elected to map out individual cases or provide zip codes, age ranges, and more. We are not able to give out that level of demographic information. Doing so, because Door County's population and number of cases is small, would run the very real risk of allowing the public or media to identify the individual.

We are able to disclose that the positive cases in Door County are not concentrated in any one locality. Rather, they are scattered throughout the county.

We appreciate that everyone wants as much information as possible. Please understand that we must use our professional judgment to determine how much information may be disclosed under the applicable privacy laws.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) may choose to provide [data](#) in ways that differ from what we provide at the county level.

We need to all continue to follow Governor Evers' Safer at Home guidelines to stop the spread of COVID

## QUESTION #2

### Should I be wearing a mask to protect myself?

New guidelines as of April 6, 2020 from the [Center of Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and [WI Department of Health Services](#) (DHS) include the recommendation that there may be a benefit to reducing asymptomatic transmission and reinforcing physical distancing from the use of face covers.

It is now recommended that everyone wear a cloth face cover at all times when in public while still maintaining physical distancing.

Wearing a cloth face cover may be beneficial as it may help to protect others from germs you may be spreading without knowing it. It does not protect you from others who are not wearing a face masks and does NOT reduce the need for physical distancing and handwashing.

Face covers should be cloth and not surgical or N95 to reserve those critical supplies for medical personnel. A cloth face cover is material that covers the nose and mouth while being secured to the head with ties, straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. These coverings can be made by a variety of materials.

**To wear a mask, keep these things in mind:**

- Before putting on a mask, clean your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Make sure your mask covers your mouth and nose with no gaps between your face and the mask.
- Do not touch your mask while wearing it; if you do, clean your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it is damp.
- Always wear your cloth reusable mask with the same side facing outwards.

**Keep in mind that a mask does not provide full protection. Therefore, remember to continue to do the following:**

- Clean your hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Continue staying at least 6 feet away from other people.
- Continue following the recommendations for social distancing: avoid crowds, stay at home as much as possible, and just leave for essential tasks (e.g. work, grocery shopping, going to the doctor, getting medications).

**How should I clean my cloth face covering?**

- It's a good idea to wash your cloth face covering frequently, ideally after each use, or at least daily.
- Have a bag or bin to keep cloth face coverings in until they can be laundered with detergent and hot water and dried on a hot cycle.
- If you must re-wear your cloth face covering before washing, wash your hands immediately after putting it back on and avoid touching your face.

Additional Information about Cloth Face Covers can be found here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/protect.html>

**QUESTION #3****How do I know if I have COVID 19 or just a cold or allergies?**

Patients with COVID-19 can experience mild to severe respiratory illness.

If you are experiencing MILD or MODERATE symptoms, such as fever, runny nose or cough, do NOT go to the Emergency Room. Call your primary health care provider prior to going to a clinic.

Your primary care provider will evaluate if testing is necessary, and direct you to a facility that can conduct sampling. This will ensure that healthcare professionals can prepare in advance should you need to receive testing or treatment. Seeking the most appropriate level of care will help protect the community and minimize exposure to other patients and staff.

If you have symptoms and feel you need testing call the Door County Medical Center COVID-19 Screening Hotline at 920-746-3700.

[COVID-19 Symptom Checker](#)

**QUESTION #4****May Tourists Still Visit Door County?**

**Because COVID-19 is widespread in Wisconsin, everyone should reduce their contact with others by [staying home](#)** when possible, practicing physical distancing, and being alert for [symptoms of COVID-19](#). Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick. DHS recommends that all travel plans are canceled or postponed, including travel within the state.

Should you decide to travel despite these recommendations, some things to consider include:

- Is COVID-19 spreading where you're going? You can get infected while traveling.
- Is COVID-19 spreading in your community? Even if you don't have symptoms, you can spread COVID-19 to others while traveling.
- For each traveler, pack: cloth face coverings, gloves, hand sanitizer, soap, disinfectant wipes

- You should [practice enhanced personal hygiene](#) at all times. This includes avoiding close contact with other and practice physical distancing by staying at least 6 feet away from others at all times, avoid crowds, wear a cloth face covering when in public, avoid touching your face, eyes and mouth and wash your hands regularly.
- Call the hotel, restaurant, or rest area to make sure they are open, as many may have reduced hours.
- **Do not travel if you are sick**, or if you have been around someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days. Do not travel with someone who is sick.

### Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions

Talk with your doctor before you go, especially if you are 65 years or older or have medical issues. If you are at risk for serious illness from COVID-19, you should reduce your chances of catching the virus. You should avoid all travel both inside and outside of your community.

### Question #5

Are religious services and places of worship able to resume services?

#### [Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith](#)

CDC offers the following general considerations to help communities of faith discern how best to practice their beliefs while keeping their staff and congregations safe. Millions of Americans embrace worship as an essential part of life. For many faith traditions, gathering together for worship is at the heart of what it means to be a community of faith. But as Americans are now aware, gatherings present a risk for increasing spread of COVID-19 during this Public Health Emergency. CDC offers these suggestions for faith communities to consider and accept, reject, or modify, consistent with their own faith traditions, in the course of preparing to reconvene for in-person gatherings while still working to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### Question #6

As a business owner, will I be notified by Public Health if one of my employees tests positive for COVID-19?

The health and safety of our community is our number one priority in Public Health. If there is a concern at your business that needs your attention, we will call to discuss it. For example, if an employee of yours tests positive and was at work during their infectious period, we will discuss with them who would have been in close contact with them at work. This is done through an extensive interview process. If they are unable to identify everyone or do not have the contact numbers, we will call their employer for help with contact information. If an employee tests positive, but was not at work during their infectious period, Public Health will not call their employer because there is no concern for exposure within the workplace. You may have employees calling to say that they were in close contact with a confirmed case and they are being asked to stay home for 14 days from the last time they were in close contact with that person. In this situation where your employee is just a contact and has no symptoms, you would not be notified by Public Health because there is no concern for exposure at your workplace.

### Question #7

What is serologic COVID-19 antibody testing? If I get it, can I go back to work?

As this disease is evolving, new tests are being developed. Unfortunately, they are not yet proven to be reliable and the results cannot be used on their own to diagnose or prove that someone is not infected with COVID-19. People develop antibodies when their body's immune system responds to an infection. These antibodies can be detected in blood. A positive COVID-19 antibody test may be able to detect if someone has previously been or is currently infected with the virus. What it cannot tell us is if the person is unable to transmit the virus any longer or if the person is immune to the virus. A negative result does not indicate that a person has never had it because it may be too early in the infection for their body to have made antibodies yet. Until the validity of these test can be proven, they should not be used for diagnosis or to allow people to return to work, and do not negate the need for local Public Health investigation and intervention.

For more information, please visit: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/bulletins/2897e5f>

For more information about antibody testing, you may contact your primary care physician.

**Local Antibody Testing Available at:** Door County Healing Center, 44 S. 2nd Ave. Sturgeon Bay. Call 920-818-0045 for more information about testing, scheduling and pricing.

## Question #8

What do I do if an employee is ill?

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Door County

# COVID-19 TESTING & EMPLOYEES

### WHAT DO I DO IF AN EMPLOYEE IS SICK?

**If an employee is ill...**  
with fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of illness:  
Sick employees should stay home, or be sent home, and contact their healthcare provider

**Individuals who have symptoms should be tested for COVID-19**  
Call the DCMC COVID Screening Hotline at 920-746-3700

### WHAT IF AN EMPLOYEE IS TESTED FOR COVID-19?

**Waiting for results**  
If an employee is waiting for results, they need to isolate at home and not have contact with anyone until the results are complete.

**Negative COVID-19 result**  
Public Health suggests that employees should not return to work until at least for 24 hours without symptoms

**POSITIVE COVID-19 result**  
Employee will be contacted by Public Health. Employee will need to stay isolated at home for a minimum of 10 days after symptoms started and have 3 days without fever and improvement in symptoms

### WHAT IF AN EMPLOYEE IS A CLOSE CONTACT OF A CONFIRMED CASE?

**If an individual had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case**

The exposed individual will need to stay home and quarantine for 14 days from the last time they had close contact with the confirmed case.

**Even if the exposed individual is tested and it's negative, they will still need to finish the 14 day quarantine**

**Will public health contact our business?**  
Public Health will contact employers when there is a risk that employees or others were exposed and we need the cooperation of the employer to locate those individuals.

**YOUR BUSINESS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY**  
by continuing to promote hand washing, social distancing, and allowing and encouraging sick individuals to stay home.

**Do you have questions?**  
Contact Door County Public Health at 920-746-2234

If an employee is ill with a fever, cough, shortness of breath or symptoms of illness the employee should stay home or be sent home and contact their healthcare provider. Individuals who have symptoms should be tested for COVID-19. They may contact the Door County Medical Center COVID Screening hotline at 920-746-3700. Testing may be billed to their insurance when available. They will not be charged for testing, regardless of insurance status.

If an employee is tested for COVID-19 they need to isolate at home and not have any contact with anyone until the results have been reported.

If the results are negative, Public Health suggests that employees should not return to work until they are symptom free for at least 24 hours. If the results are positive, the employee will be contacted by Public Health. The employee will need to stay isolated at home for a minimum of 10 days after symptoms started and have three days without fever and improvement of symptoms.

Public Health will contact employers when there is a risk that employees or others were exposed, and we need the cooperation of the employer to locate those individuals.

If there are employees who have had close contact with the confirmed COVID-19 case, the exposed individual will need to stay home, and quarantine for 14 days from the last time they had close contact with the confirmed case. Even if the exposed individual is tested and it is negative, they will still need to finish the 14 day quarantine.

Your business can make a difference in our community by continuing to promote hand washing, social distancing, and allowing and encouraging sick individuals to stay home.

#### Question #9

**Are international workers or students coming to Door County for the summer required to quarantine upon arrival?**

According to the Department of Health Services (DHS), all international travelers arriving into the U.S. should stay home for 14 days after their arrival. At home, they are expected to monitor their health and practice physical distancing. To protect the health of others, these travelers should not go to work or school for 14 days.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/travel.htm>

#### Question #10

**What is Badger Bounce Back and what phase are we currently in?**

The state is using data to make recommendations that protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites.

Badger Bounce Back is Wisconsin's plan to reopen and contains the recommendations of our public health experts. Based on the science of the virus and public health practices, a gradual, phased process continues to be the safest way to open Wisconsin.

COVID-19 remains very contagious and our data and metrics (below) tell us that we should continue to limit our interactions with others as much as possible to protect ourselves and our communities and reduce the spread of COVID-19. In order to safely reopen Wisconsin, we continue to work with our partners across the state to increase our testing and expand our contact tracing. We are also working with local leaders to help ensure access to safe isolation, shore up our hospital capacity, and monitor the prevalence of COVID-19. We will continue to maintain and update the statewide gating criteria and provide consistent localized data for use in local decision-making for reopening plans.

[Click here to see current status of Wisconsin in meeting the Badger Bounce Back gating criteria.](#)



## Question #11

Is it safe to plan or attend events such as festivals, parades, weddings or parties?

Large group gatherings of any size are not recommended at this time.

Follow social distancing, cloth face coverings and sanitation guidelines when in public settings and consider the following guidance for planning, scheduling or attending events or gatherings.



<b>Low Risk</b> Staying at Home	<b>Moderate Risk</b> Gatherings Under 10 People	<b>High Risk</b> Gatherings of 10-50 People	<b>Not Advisable</b> Gatherings of 50 or more
------------------------------------	--	--	--