Dept. of Health Services: With surge in cases, launches new COVID-19 data and mitigation strategies to aid local communities

Posted on Wednesday, Sep 30, 2020

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The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) today launched new data designed to give Wisconsinites a better picture of the impact of COVID-19 in our state, what the trends in cases mean, and how to most effectively respond to this virus. In tandem with this data update, DHS also released guidance on mitigation strategies for communities.

"Giving Wisconsinites accurate information about the status of COVID-19 in their communities is critically important to stopping the spread of this virus in our state," said Governor Tony Evers. "That's why I'm so pleased DHS is launching new data dashboards to better assess COVID-19 disease activity and related hospital capacity."

Our new data enhancements and updates include:

[Local Data](#): DHS launched enhanced local data that provides an easy way to find local data and to compare metrics across locations and over time with disease activity and hospital capacity metrics:

- [Disease Activity](#) leads with the COVID-19 case activity levels, which track changes in confirmed COVID-19 numbers, as well as levels of COVID-19-like illness (CLI) and influenza-like illness (ILI) in emergency departments. Each activity level is supplemented with the overall trends to provide a more complete picture of COVID-19 in a community. Activity levels are categorized

as low, medium, high, or very high, to help with interpretation. The addition of a "very high" level helps target those areas of highest concern under conditions where widespread community transmission is already the norm across much of the state.

- [Hospital Capacity](#) helps track the impact of COVID-19 on the regional health care system. It shows trends in COVID-19 hospitalizations and current use of hospital beds, ICU beds, and ventilators.

[Slowing the Spread of COVID-19: Mitigation Strategies for Wisconsin Communities](#) (PDF): This guidance is intended to provide local and tribal health departments and leaders in their communities another tool to help them make decisions regarding disease mitigation. The decision process detailed in the guidance focuses on disease activity and hospital capacity metrics as well as community-specific considerations.

DHS will update this data by 4 p.m. every Wednesday.

[Percent Positive](#): New graphs showing 7-day trends of percent positive COVID-19 cases by test and comparing percent positive by person and test have been added.

[Cases Among School-Age Children](#): This data breaks down confirmed COVID-19 cases by youth age group or school-aged children. It includes those under age 3, 4–8 years-old, 9–13 years-old, and 14–17 years-old.

DHS will update this data daily by 2 p.m.

"One of our priorities, since the beginning of this COVID-19 pandemic, has been to ensure local and tribal health departments have the tools they need to most effectively respond to this crisis," said DHS Secretary-designee Andrea Palm. "These data enhancements give us additional information to protect our frontline health care workers, our most vulnerable neighbors, and the capacity of our healthcare system more broadly."

Find the latest information about [COVID-19](#) on the DHS website and follow @DHSWI on [Facebook(link is external)](#) and [Twitter(link is external)](#), and @dhs.wi on [Instagram.](#)