



Sauk County Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAUK COUNTY MOVES INTO PHASE 2 OF ITS REOPENING

Sauk County, WI – Sauk County Public Health (SCPH) released new data today which indicate that Sauk County is ready to move into Phase 2 of its safe reopening plan. “There have been a lot of tests for COVID conducted over the past several weeks in our community,” said Tim Lawther, Sauk County Health Officer. “The results of these tests have given us confidence that we are in a good position to keep moving ahead with our safe reopening, and move into Phase 2.”

Here is a summary of the data which supports moving to Phase 2 of the Sauk County Reopening Plan:

1. 14% of new COVID cases were not linked to a known source, down from 33% last week and below the goal of <20%, indicating an acceptable level of community spread.
2. 0.45% of the tests conducted resulted in a positive test, far below the goal of <5%.
3. An average of 112 tests were conducted every day, above the minimum goal of 48 tests/day.
 - a. Goal changed to account for the current Sauk County situation; down from 130/day.
4. There was no significant increase in the amount of COVID-like symptoms reported in the last 14 days; in fact the trend line was slightly downward.
5. All hospital preparedness metrics are good.
6. Disease investigation occurred in a timely fashion 86% of the time.

There are two data points that are still of some concern, including:

1. Sauk County had 7 new cases in 14 days, above the goal of 5 or below.
2. Labs are still taking, on average, too long to report results to SCPH, but it has improved from 48% previously to 80% over the most recent 14-day period.

Data can be found at <https://coviddata-saukpublichealth.hub.arcgis.com/>.

The biggest change from Phase 1 to Phase 2 is the size of gatherings that are allowable. Now that Sauk County has moved into Phase 2, gatherings of up to 50 people are acceptable. Residents should continue to practice 6-foot social distancing, avoid crowds of more than 50 people wherever possible, stay home when not feeling well, wash their hands regularly, and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces. Precautions people should take to help protect themselves during specific activities can be found on the SCPH website (<https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/protect-yourself-others#PrecautionsList>).

Businesses should continue to review and improve their operations, protocol, and policies to help reduce the risk of COVID for their customers and employees. There is a self-assessment tool to help businesses identify areas for further improvement and access resources that may help them at (<https://forms.gle/WaCXX3opxcCMkkC38>). If an individual business has a specific question about guidance and best practice after they have reviewed WEDC and SCPH guidance (<https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/business-guidance>) and completed the self-assessment tool, they can email covid19@saukcountywi.gov and SCPH will compile answers to those questions on a FAQ webpage.