

Public Health



Sauk County Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAUK COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

Sauk County, WI – We’ve all been dealing with COVID for over a month now, and Sauk County Public Health knows how difficult it has been for everybody. But it is imperative that we continue to follow the Safer at Home order and stay home unless you are providing or receiving an absolutely essential service.

The Governor just released Emergency Order #28, which extends certain components of the initial Safer at Home order, and amends others. There are many new guidelines that will take effect on April 24, and run through May 25. We will send out more information and local guidance as soon as we get it finalized.

#SaferAtHome
YES, IT'S WORKING!

THE STEPS WISCONSINITES HAVE TAKEN

- Staying Safer at Home by eliminating nonessential outings
- Practicing physical distancing
- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water
- Covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze

FLATTENING THE CURVE

- Our initial projections show that without Safer at Home, there would be significantly more cases of COVID-19, resulting in more deaths.
- Safer at Home has flattened the curve, resulting in fewer cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Keep up the good work, Wisconsin!

Where we *could* have been *without* #SaferAtHome on March 29

Where we *are with* #SaferAtHome on April 11

WWW.DHS.WISCONSIN.GOV/COVID-19/

Sauk County Public Health Officer, Tim Lawther, says, “Our best protection against COVID-19 remains staying home and social distancing. As difficult as it is, social distancing is working and we cannot relax these preventive measures now!” In fact, Lawther says, “It is even more important now to stay **Safer at Home.**”

As you can see in the graphic to the left, Wisconsin could have been FAR worse off if we hadn’t implemented all of these preventive measures.

CASES

COVID-19 Cases and Deaths – as of April 16, 2020, 6:00 am				
	Cases	1-Day Change	Deaths	1-Day Change
Sauk County	31	0	3	0
Wisconsin	3,721	+166	182	+12
United States	605,390	+26,385	24,582	+2,330
Worldwide	1,914,916	+70,082	123,010	+5,989

While local cases have not grown in the last day or so, testing is severely limited so we know that these numbers are not indicative of the true community risk or spread. Lawther says, “COVID-19 is in our community and we must all assume that everyone we come in contact with has the virus. Social distancing really is our best protection!”

There is a new data dashboard on the Sauk County Public Health (SCPH) website which provides daily updates on cases, as well as case trends so that people can see what the curve looks like locally.

<https://saukgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/5685e1a041664d1db4a67617865b1315>

SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

Every Thursday evening at 6pm Sauk County is offering a "Maintaining Wellness During Stressful Times" webinar. This week, our presenter is Brandon Green from Baraboo Pulse Fitness & Training, presenting on *Taking Back Control of your Nutrition and Activity*. The replays of these weekly webinars will be posted Friday mornings at <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/coronavirus>.

Mental health and substance abuse services are needed even during normal times. During this public health crisis, the need for that help is even greater. If you or someone you know is in a mental health crisis, please call (608) 355-4200 during business hours, or (800) 533-5692 after hours or on weekends. The SCPH website also has a resource list for people who might need some help at <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/covid-19-resources-individuals-and-families#Mental%20Health>.

So many of our neighbors are struggling to feed their families during this outbreak. Sauk County is working with the Greater Sauk Community Foundation to collect money for area food pantries. You can donate by visiting www.greatersauk.org. All proceeds collected there will be given directly to area food pantries. The Central Wisconsin Community Action Council (CWCAC) is working with SCPH to help coordinate local food security efforts and we expect positive news on another grant we applied for to increase local food supply and distribution channels. More to come soon!

Domestic violence and sexual assault are also increasing during this crisis. Hope House continues to provide much needed services and support for those experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault. If you or someone you know needs help, please call (800) 584-6790 24 hours/day or visit www.hopehousesw.org.

Many other resources are available at <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/covid-19-resources-individuals-and-families>.

NEXT PHASE

This strain of coronavirus is going to be with us for a long time, and a vaccine is *at least* a year away from widespread use. Many of the measures we have put in place over the past several weeks will be integrated into our “new normal” in one way or another.

Our dual-approach strategy of containment (slowing the *entry* of the disease into our community) and mitigation (slow the *spread* of the disease) clearly has had a positive impact so far (see graphic above). As we start to think about how to resume County services, businesses, churches, and other important community institutions, it is vital we recognize that our previous ways of doing business and connecting with people will be forever changed. While we need to decide as a community and nation what this looks like, it is clear that COVID-19 will leave a long-lasting impact on what our “new normal” is, and we all need to be planning for this across all departments, sectors, and households. More to come on how we can work together for the benefit of our residents.

For more information, please visit a reliable source, including:

- Sauk County Public Health: <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/coronavirus>; Sauk County COVID hotline @ (608) 355-3200; or the Public Health Department @ (608) 355-3290
- The Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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