



The [statewide COVID-19 website](#) is a one stop shop that consolidates information from state agencies, and provides up-to-date information and guidance regarding COVID-19. If you're not busy, please make a call, send a card, or write a letter to someone you know who lives alone or may need assistance.

Please, let them and your family know that you are thinking of them, and that we are here for each other.

Bless each of you during this difficult time of uncertainty and suffering. Take good care!

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Bouncing Back!



Last week, Governor Evers announced the need to extend the "Safer at Home" order. This was not an easy decision, but in keeping with the guidelines set out by our federal government and the advice our state health professionals, it is still the best strategy we have for keeping our people safe.

On Monday, April 21, Governor Evers announced his plan for the progressive reopening of Wisconsin's economy. Titled the [Badger Bounce Back](#).

The "Bounce Back" outlines phases and criteria to follow as we move to open our economy. These phases are based on the *Federal Gating Criteria and Core State Preparedness Responsibilities* found in President Trump's [Guidelines for Opening Up America Again](#) issued by the White House on April 16th.

The Criteria for Reopening Wisconsin

Boxing in COVID-19 So We Can Re-Open Wisconsin

It is now time to move from our initial response to COVID-19, which has been to keep all Wisconsinites at home to prevent spreading this disease. Once we reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and meet the Badger Bounce Back criteria, we can begin to allow people to interact, and more importantly get Wisconsinites back to work.

1. Symptoms
Over the course of 14-days we consistently see fewer and fewer people reporting flu-like illnesses and COVID-like cases. This is called a downward trajectory.

2. Cases
Over the course of 14 days we consistently see fewer and fewer positive cases of COVID-19 as a percentage of total tests.

3. Health Care System
Our hospitals can treat all patients without crisis care and there are robust testing programs in place for at-risk health care workers, with decreasing numbers of infected health care workers.

4. Testing
Every Wisconsin resident who has symptoms of COVID-19 will be able to get a lab test. Results will be reported to the patient and public health within 48 hours of collection.

5. Contact Tracing
Testing without contact tracing will not result in controlling the spread of the virus. Every Wisconsin resident who tests positive for COVID-19 is interviewed within 24 hours of test results and their contacts are interviewed within 48 hours of test results.

6. Protective Equipment
All health care and public safety entities will need to have adequate PPE and supplies to conduct COVID-19 testing, patient care, and public safety work.






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Expanded Testing Criteria and Increasing Lab Capacity

An important component of the Badger Bounce Back plan is to make sure that everyone who needs a test should get a test, the goal is to conduct 12,000 tests per day, or about

85,000 tests per week.

This will be achieved by coordinating with private partners like [Exact Sciences](#), [Epic Systems](#), [Promega](#), and [Marshfield Clinic Health System](#).

To help facilitate the Bounce Back plan, National Guard teams will be deployed to locations across the state to set up testing sites where outbreaks are occurring. These teams will administer testing in the communities with the highest need. They have already begun work with one team at the Milwaukee County House for Corrections.

The Bounce Back plan also includes efforts to bolster contact tracing, by adding 1,000 additional contact tracing employees.

The plan includes working with businesses and preparing to be open **as soon as it is safe to do so**.

[WEDC](#) and Secretary-designee Missy Hughes are working with businesses of all sizes to help figure out how to minimize disease transmission in the workplace, identify worker safety protocols, and help ensure customer safety so our workers and businesses are ready to open again.

Growing Number of Cases Impacting the Latino Community

Milwaukee's 53215 zip code is experiencing the largest surge in COVID-19 cases recently. The surge began on April 13th, and likely hasn't reached its peak.

Challenges for this area are the population density, the number of people who are considered essential employees, and also the language barrier when trying to gain access to services.

Mayor Barrett and Milwaukee Health Commissioner Jeanette Kowalik plan to increase testing in the area, along with increased bilingual outreach. [Read more](#)

The [Southside Organizing Center](#) and the [Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers](#) are available to answer questions in English and Spanish.

7 Midwest States Working Together on Plans to Reopen

Wisconsin, along with Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, and Kentucky are coordinating their plans to reopen their economies.

Regional pacts of this type are being built across the country. They are designed to ensure that our country has a smooth transition as it reopens, rather than reopening in fits and starts. By putting their heads together, these state governments will have a wider pool of expertise to draw upon when making plans to deal with the Coronavirus. [Read more](#).

Services Remain Open for Those Experiencing Domestic Abuse

The [Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#) and [End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin](#) want survivors to know that service providers for those that have experienced sexual

assault or domestic abuse remain open.

Domestic violence cases have increased recently, and often, home is not a safe place to stay for people in this difficult situation.

If you need help, [WCASA has contact information](#) for service providers by county.

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