

May 22, 2020

Dodge County Safe Restart Guidelines and Recommendations for Action

Abby Sauer

Dodge County Public Health Officer

Becky Bell

Dodge County Human Services and Health
Department Director

**Dodge County Human Services and Health
Department- Public Health Unit**

Henry Dodge Office Building- Ground floor
199 County Rd DF

Juneau, WI 53039

Contact: (920) 386-3670



Dodge County Safe Restart

Guidelines and Recommendations for Action

May 22, 2020

Abby Sauer- Dodge County Public
Health Officer

Introduction

This document provides recommendations to Dodge County community members and local businesses to help keep people safe as the community opens up. Dodge County uses the federal Guidelines for Opening Up America Again and the Wisconsin Badger Bounce Back plan to build the metrics and phases in this plan that will slowly and cautiously reopen businesses and activities in our communities to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Background Information

In Wisconsin, Governor Tony Evers declared a public health emergency on March 12, 2020 to respond to and contain COVID-19 in Wisconsin. At a national level, President Donald Trump proclaimed a National Emergency concerning COVID-19 on March 13, 2020. The prior Wisconsin Safer at Home Order worked to flatten the curve of infections of COVID-19 in Wisconsin, and Wisconsin saw meaningful gains from this proactive step. As of May 22, 2020 there have been over 14,000 people in the state diagnosed with COVID-19 and less than 4% of those illnesses resulted in loss of life. Dodge County has experienced over 100 of those positive test results and a <1% death rate. Since March 13, 2020 Dodge County's active case numbers have ranged from 44 to 65 county residents diagnosed as actively ill at any given time. The known rate of infection within Dodge County is currently 156.1 cases per 100,000. On May 1, 2020 there were 17 active cases, as of today there are 65 people who are actively ill. This is a crucial time for Dodge County to continue to be vigilant and take actions that will halt further spread of the disease. This requires all Dodge County residents and business owners take responsibility, to work together and to support best practices.

Moving through the Phases

A measured, phased-in approach that utilizes data-driven benchmark criteria and aligns with federal and state metrics has been developed to guide Dodge County decision making.

Effective today, Dodge County will begin Phase One of the Dodge County Safe Restart. The specifics of each phase are detailed below. Guidance on how Dodge County will determine movement through the phases is also included. The guidelines and information contained within this plan are subject to change based on the spread of disease within Dodge County and will be superseded by any local, state or federal level legislation passed to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Reviewing Phase Specifics

Phase



- Businesses that choose to open may do so using the general best practice guidelines from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and any sector specific recommendations that apply to the work being done. If your sector is not included the CDC has additional resources for sectors/organizations to reference.
 - Limit capacity within non-essential businesses, bars, restaurants and organizations to 25%.
 - Events held outdoors should allow for all people to maintain 6 feet physical distance (36 square feet per person) from others.
 - People age 65 or older and those who are medically vulnerable should continue to limit travel and remain at home as much as possible.
 - Support online education/remote work options as able.
 - Encourage curbside pick-up to reduce in-store traffic and long lines.
 - If community members choose to gather socially, private indoor social gatherings should be limited to 10 people or less with physical distancing.
 - Encourage masking for both staff and consumers.
-

Phase



- Continue to follow WEDC and CDC Best Practice Guidelines.
 - Limit capacity within non-essential businesses, bars, restaurants and organizations to 50%.
 - People age 65 or older and those who are medically vulnerable should continue to limit travel and remain at home as much as possible.
 - Events held outdoors should allow for all people to maintain 6 feet physical distance (36 square feet per person) from others.
 - Support online education/remote work options as able.
 - If community members choose to gather socially, private indoor social gatherings should be limited to 50 people or less with physical distancing.
 - Encourage masking for both staff and consumers.
-

Phase



- Continue to follow WEDC and CDC Best Practice Guidelines.
- Limit capacity within non-essential businesses, bars, restaurants and organizations to 75%.
- Events held outdoors should allow for all people to maintain 6 feet physical distance (36 square feet per person) from others.
- Maintain current CDC and DHS mitigation strategies until those strategies are lifted.
- If community members choose to gather socially, private indoor social gatherings should be limited to 250 people or less with physical distancing.
- Encourage masking for both staff and consumers.

Actions to Occur through All Phases

Community Member Actions:

- Avoid going to places where safety measures are not in place.
- Practice good hand hygiene.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- Strongly consider using cloth face coverings while in public, particularly when using mass transit.
- If you are sick, stay home- Do NOT go to work, school, or any other public place and follow the advice of your medical provider.
- Know where to find local information on COVID-19.
- Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if symptomatic.
- Create a household plan of action in case of illness in the household or disruption of daily activities due to COVID-19.
- Follow public health quarantine/isolation orders when ill or when you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Business and Organization Actions:

- When businesses choose to open, they should implement the WEDC General Guidelines to protect staff and consumers.
- The WEDC issued guidance for businesses by sector, businesses should review and follow sector specific guidance that applies to the work being done, if your sector is not included, the CDC has additional resources for sectors.
- Do NOT allow symptomatic people to work. Send them home if they arrive at work. Follow CDC guidelines related to return to work.
- Monitoring for symptoms, temperature checks and exposure in staff through an active monitoring program that is designed to quickly identify and remove exposure risks from the workplace.
- Work with local public health staff to develop and implement policies and procedures for workforce contact tracing following an employee COVID-19 positive test result.
- Train employees on COVID-19 Health and Safety measures.
- Develop sick leave policies that facilitate an environment in which ill or exposed individuals will actually stay home, thereby decreasing risk to the workplace.
- Protect the health and safety of customers by:
 - Setting and implementing aggressive infection control policies, such as frequent cleaning of all high-touch surfaces and preventing large congregations of people in close quarters.
 - Advising the public about recommendations to continue social distancing and to utilize cloth face coverings.
- Message to management, staff, and customers the importance of following prevention measures to prevent future waves that could shut down businesses again.

Criteria for Phases

A key component of the Dodge County Safe Restart plan is the ability to monitor key criteria to determine the burden of COVID-19 in Dodge County and to assist health officials in determining when Dodge County is ready to move to the next phase. The Benchmark Criteria outlined in the Safe Restart Plan align with the Wisconsin Badger Bounce Back Plan and the federal Guidelines for Opening up America Again.

Benchmark Criteria

Benchmark Criteria will be monitored daily. If thresholds are maintained, the Dodge County Public Health Department will provide guidance to the community regarding moving to the next phase. The Dodge County Public Health Department will use a combination of state and local level data while considering guidance from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services related to restart of activities.

The following measures serve as the Benchmark Criteria:

Benchmark Criteria Status Report

Color Key:



The Benchmark Criteria Status Report Scorecard will be updated every Friday at 2pm on the Dodge County website.

	Metric	Threshold			Status
Cases	Downward trajectory of positive cases of COVID-19 in Dodge County as a percentage of total tests	Trajectory of positive cases as percentage Will use county level data from DHS website			5/22
		Negative trajectory for 14 days, or % positive <5%	Negative trajectory for 7 days	Does not meet green/yellow w criteria	
		Positive Tests as % of All Tests (rolling average over last 7 days)			5/22
		<5% positive	5-10% positive	10%+ positive	
Testing	Testing availability for all residents with COVID-19-like symptoms, with priority toward vulnerable populations.	Health Systems Report of testing capacity			5/22
		100% of Systems able to test anyone with symptoms	>50% of Systems able to test critical infrastructure and other priority groups	Does not meet green/yellow criteria	

Benchmark Criteria Status

Report continued...

	Metric	Threshold			Status
Care	Dodge County Hospitals (DCH) have ability to treat all patients requiring hospitalization without resorting to crisis standards	% of DCH indicating they are NOT in crisis care			5/22
		100%	95%	<95%	
		% of DCH beds utilized for COVID-19+ patients (# of Hospitalized COVID-19 Positive Patients) / (Total ICU Bed Usage + Total Floor Bed Usage)			5/22
		<10% of patients are COVID-19+	10-20% of patients are COVID-19+	20% of hospital are COVID-19+	
PPE	Adequate PPE available to health care personnel	PPE for Hospital and Other Testing Sites (Measure of PPE for Dodge County hospital systems; PPE measured includes N95 masks, gloves, gowns, sanitizer)			5/22
		29+ days of all PPE supply for hospital systems	8-28 days of all PPE supply for hospital systems	0-7 days of all PPE supply for hospital systems	
		Interview within 24 hrs. (% of all positive cases interviewed within 24 hours of test result)			5/22
Tracing	Every resident who tests positive for COVID-19 is interviewed within 24 hours of test results, contacts to COVID-19 positive individuals are interviewed within 48 hours of test results	100% of cases interviewed within 24 hr.	>50% of cases interviewed within 24 hr.	<50% of cases interviewed within 24 hr.	
		Contacts within 48 hrs. (% of all tracing contacts that were interviewed within 48 hours of test result)			5/22
		100% of cases interviewed within 24 hr.	>50% of cases interviewed within 24 hr.	<50% of cases interviewed within 24 hr.	



Benchmark Criteria

Phase Evaluation Plan



● **Phase One**– Assess Benchmark Criteria after 14 days, which is the COVID-19 incubation period. If Benchmark Criteria are at least yellow in all categories of Cases, Testing, Care, PPE, and Tracing, Dodge County will plan to move to Phase Two.



● **Phase Two**– Dodge County will remain in Phase Two for a minimum of 14 days, which is one incubation cycle of COVID-19. This will allow public health to assess the impact of the increased activity on the spread of the disease in Dodge County. If Benchmark Criteria continue to be at least yellow in all categories, Dodge County will move to Phase Three. If any Benchmark Criteria have changed to red during Phase Two, local public health will continue to reassess Benchmark Criteria every 7 days. After each seven-day assessment, if all Benchmark Criteria are at least yellow, Dodge County will move to Phase Three.



● **Phase Three**– Dodge County will remain in Phase Three for a minimum of 14 days, which is one incubation cycle of COVID-19. This will allow public health to assess the impact of the increased activity on the spread of the disease in Dodge County. If any Benchmark Criteria have changed to red during Phase Three, local health will continue to reassess Benchmark Criteria every 7 days. After each seven-day assessment, if all Benchmark Criteria are at least yellow, Dodge County will remove the limitations on capacity limits and limitations on social gatherings.

Adherence to these guidelines is important to keep our community safe. This requires all Dodge County residents and business owners to take responsibility, work together and implement best practices. If this does not occur and concerning trends develop related COVID-19 cases or health system capacity, the municipality, county, state, or federal government will need to issue stronger restrictions. If you have questions about how to implement these recommendations, please call (920) 386-3670 or refer to our Dodge County Public Health website <https://www.co.dodge.wi.gov/>

Resources:

- Dodge County COVID-19 Page

References:

- WI DHS Badger Bounce Back Plan
- Sheboygen ReOpen Order
- WEDC Guidelines for Businesses
- CDC Guidelines by Sector