Winnebago County Health Department
COVID-19 Weekly Data Summary
October 15, 2020

Summary

- Oshkosh-Neenah is listed by the NY Times as the #2 worst outbreak area in the Nation. Appleton and Green Bay are in the top 5. We have uncontrolled spread that is threatening all aspects of community life. Reliance on voluntary compliance to slow the spread of disease continues to fail.
- **Stay at Home.** There are thousands of people currently infected with COVID-19 in Winnebago County and thousands more that have been exposed and may develop the disease. Many do not know they are infected and others are knowingly breaking isolation and quarantine. **Assume that every public place you are in has a risk of exposure to you.** Wear a mask and keep your distance at all times in public, minimize your time in any indoor environment outside your home. Assume household members that are active outside of the home can infect you. If you have been tested, please stay home until you receive your test results and then follow recommendations for isolation if positive and quarantine if negative and a close contact to a case.
- **Deaths are on the rise.** One-third of the 39 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in our jurisdiction have occurred in the past 2 weeks.
- COVID-19 hospitalizations are at record levels across the state. In our region, **COVID-19 hospitalizations are at the highest level to date** – almost 3 times as high as they were one month ago. As of 10/14/20, Fox Valley Area hospitals had 150 COVID-19 patients hospitalized**,** an increase from the 138 hospitalized patients last week. The Wisconsin State Fair Park Alternate Care Facility was opened on Oct. 14 to start accepting overflow. Elective procedures are being cancelled.
- The extraordinarily high rates of cases have caused school closings, business closings and are challenging available hospital capacity. **We need everyone to stay home when ill, wear a mask, and physically distance.**
- The number of new cases continues to increase and continues to exceed the ability of testing and case investigation to control the spread of illness. The number of cases in the first week of this 2-week timeframe was 910 and for this most recent week is 992.
- The confirmed case rate over the past 2 weeks for our jurisdiction is 1237.1 cases per 100,000, a small increase from the 1225.6 per 100,000 reported last week, and the **highest biweekly case rate for our jurisdiction to date**. The doubling time for our cases is 23.7 days. For all of Winnebago County, the case rate over the past 2 weeks is 1,458.0, and for the Fox Valley HERC region it is 1,316.1*, putting both at a **very high burden level**.
- Individuals aged 25-29 had the highest confirmed case rate of 1,786 per 100,000 over the past 2 weeks. Case rates among the 18-24 age group have declined across recent weeks.
- **Testing percent positivity is at 12.4%** for the past 2 weeks, which is the same as last week and still far from our goal of remaining below 5% positivity. The regional COVID-19 testing site at Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh has averaged performing 868 tests per day over the past 2 weeks. Regional testing capacity is increasing with additional National Guards site open in other counties. If you have been tested, please stay home until you receive your test results and follow the guidance provided.
- **Contact tracing capacity has been overwhelmed**. Our goal is to reach out to all confirmed cases within 24-48 hours of being reported to the health department. Given the current surge in positive cases, our ability to do contact tracing has been strained**.** Only the highest risk close contacts are being contacted directly by public health – we are asking confirmed cases to reach out to all other close contacts themselves. This is despite our department having expanded our COVID -19 contact tracing staff more than five-fold to over 25 FTE.
- Older adults and people with underlying medical conditions are most at risk. If you have cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD, obesity, serious heart conditions, sickle cell disease, or diabetes, you should take these warnings very seriously and take extra precautions to stay safe.

Background Information

This report provides *preliminary* data on the confirmed COVID-19 cases from September 30 – October 13, 2020. Dates utilized for all graphs and tables are based on test result date and may not represent final case counts. Data may be underreported for recent days because results can take multiple days to be reported to the health department. This means the number of tests and percent positivity may change in next week's report. As this is a weekly report for the past 14 days, there will always be a week of overlap between reports.

*The COVID-19 data provided in this report is specific to the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) jurisdiction (population: 153,748). It does not include the portions of the City of Menasha or City of Appleton that fall within Winnebago County as those areas fall within the jurisdiction of the City of Menasha Health Department and City of Appleton Health Department. Data provided on the Department of Health Services website may be different than the information provided by WCHD because the state reports data for the entire county, which includes those portions of Menasha and Appleton.

For additional Winnebago County Health Department COVID-19 information:

- WCHD COVID-19 Webpage
- Municipality Weekly Data Summaries
- School District Weekly Data Summaries

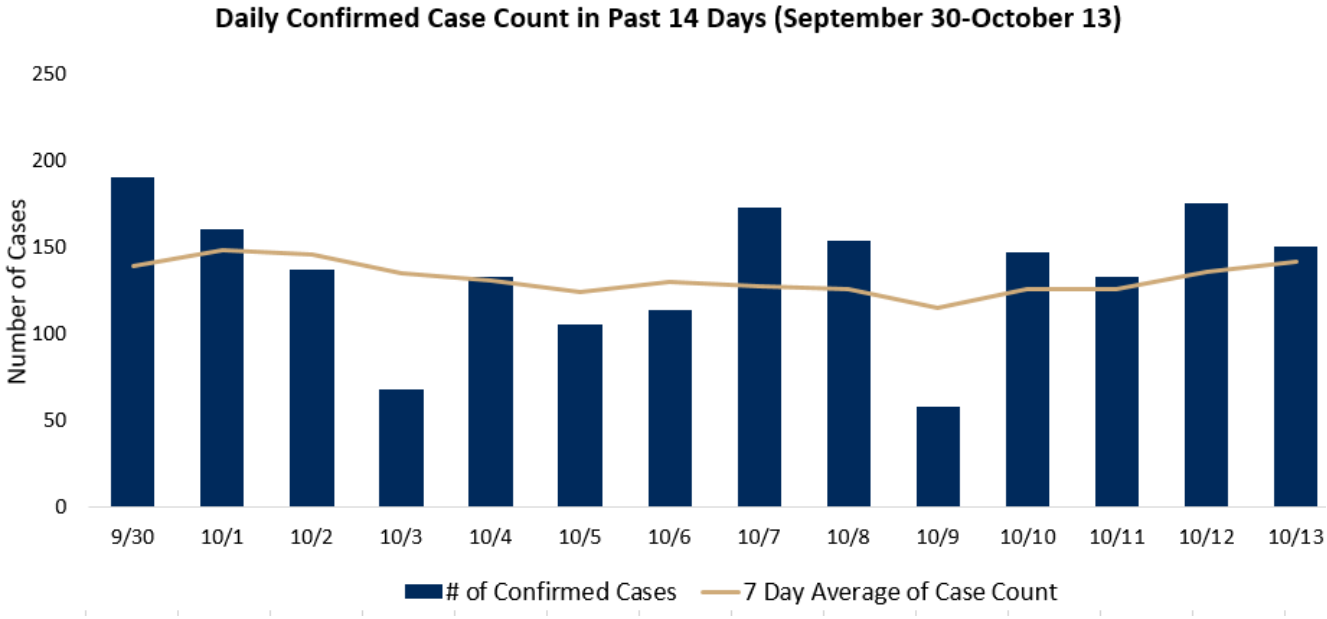
Case Counts

- **Cumulative Case Counts (3/9/2020 – 10/14/2020)**
  - Confirmed Cases: 5,650
    - Active Cases: 1,375 (24% of cumulative cases)
    - Recovered Cases: 4,236 (75% of cumulative cases)
  - Probable Cases: 231
  - Negative Cases: 37,921
  - *Deaths: 39
- **Case Counts for the Past 14 Days (9/30/2020 – 10/13/2020)**
  - Confirmed Cases: 1,902
  - Probable Cases: 97
  - Negative Cases: 4,395
  - **Deaths: 13

***Death certificate must list COVID-19 (or the virus causing COVID-19) as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death. Healthcare providers and/or coroner determines cause of death.*

Case Count by Day – Last 2 Weeks

When there is adequate testing in place, trending daily case counts show if the disease is spreading or shrinking and what the overall burden of disease is in our area. This graph shows the number of confirmed cases by the test result date. **There was an average of 135.9 cases per day, which is stable with the 135.1 cases per day reported last week**. Daily confirmed cases ranged from 58 to 191. For a full disease curve, see the dashboard on our website.



Daily confirmed case counts presented here may differ from our situation update and the cases by day graph reported on our dashboard. This chart reflects the test result date instead of the date when the results are actually received by the health department.

Case Rates

- Burden: total number of cases per 100,000 residents in the last two weeks
    - Confirmed Case Rate for past two weeks (September 30 – October 13)
        - 1237.1 cases per 100,000 population
        - Very High burden
    - *Confirmed Case Rate for previous two weeks (September 23 – October 6): 1,225.6 per 100,000 population*

Burden Status	Case Rate per 100,000 residents in the past two weeks	Number of Cases in the past two weeks
Low	Case rate is less than or equal to 10.	Less than 15 cases
Moderate	Case rate is greater than, but less than or equal to 50.	Greater than 15 cases, but less than or equal to 77 cases.
Moderately High	Case rate is greater than 50, but less than or equal to 100.	Greater than 77 cases, but less than or equal to 154 cases.
High	Case rate is greater than 100, but less than or equal to 350.	Greater than 154 cases, but less than or equal to 540 cases.
Very High	Case rate is greater than 350.	Greater than 540 cases.

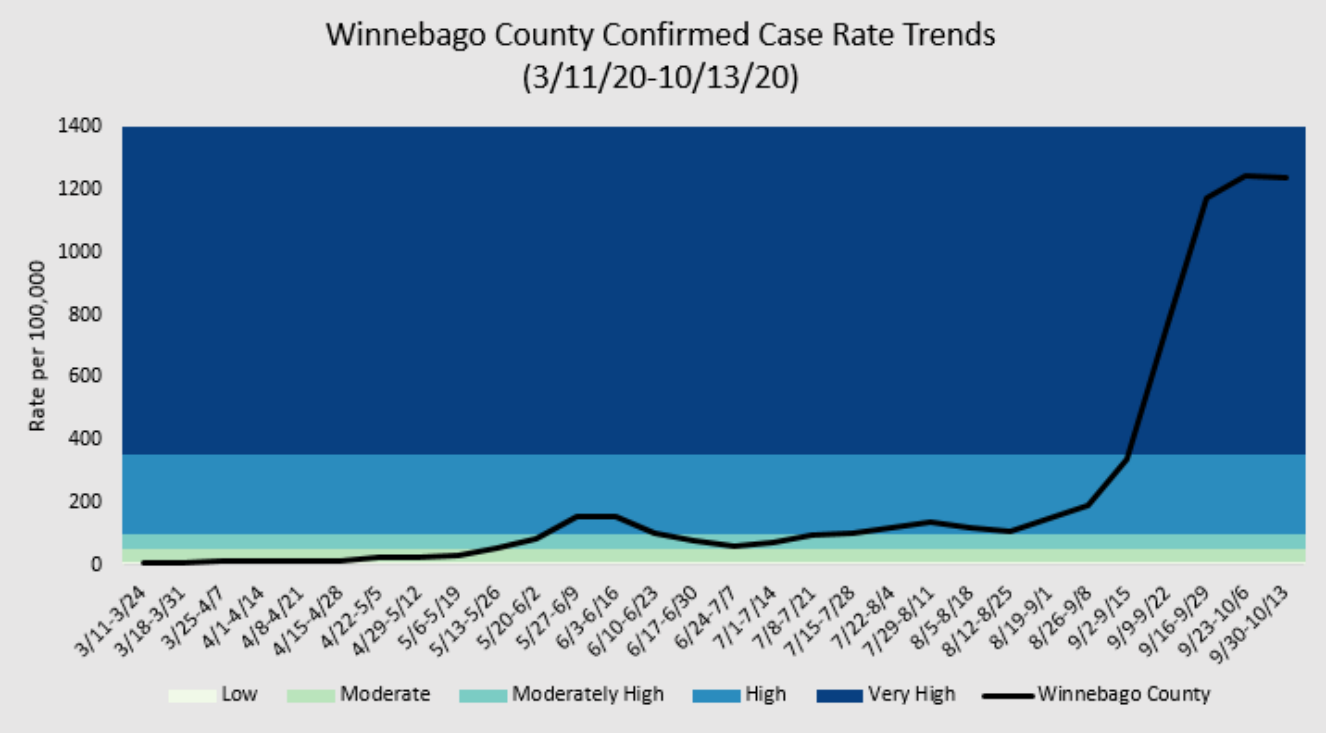
To be consistent with the state's burden status categories, we have renamed our 'critical' category to be labelled 'very high'.

- Trajectory: Percent change in number of confirmed cases from previous to current week
    - No significant change
- Activity: Summary indicator based on the burden and trajectory
    - Very High

View the DHS COVID Local Activity Level page to learn more about these indicators.

Biweekly Confirmed Case Rate Trends

The graphs below show confirmed case rate per 100,000 people for the Winnebago County Health Department Jurisdiction. These case rates are based on confirmed case counts during a two-week time span.

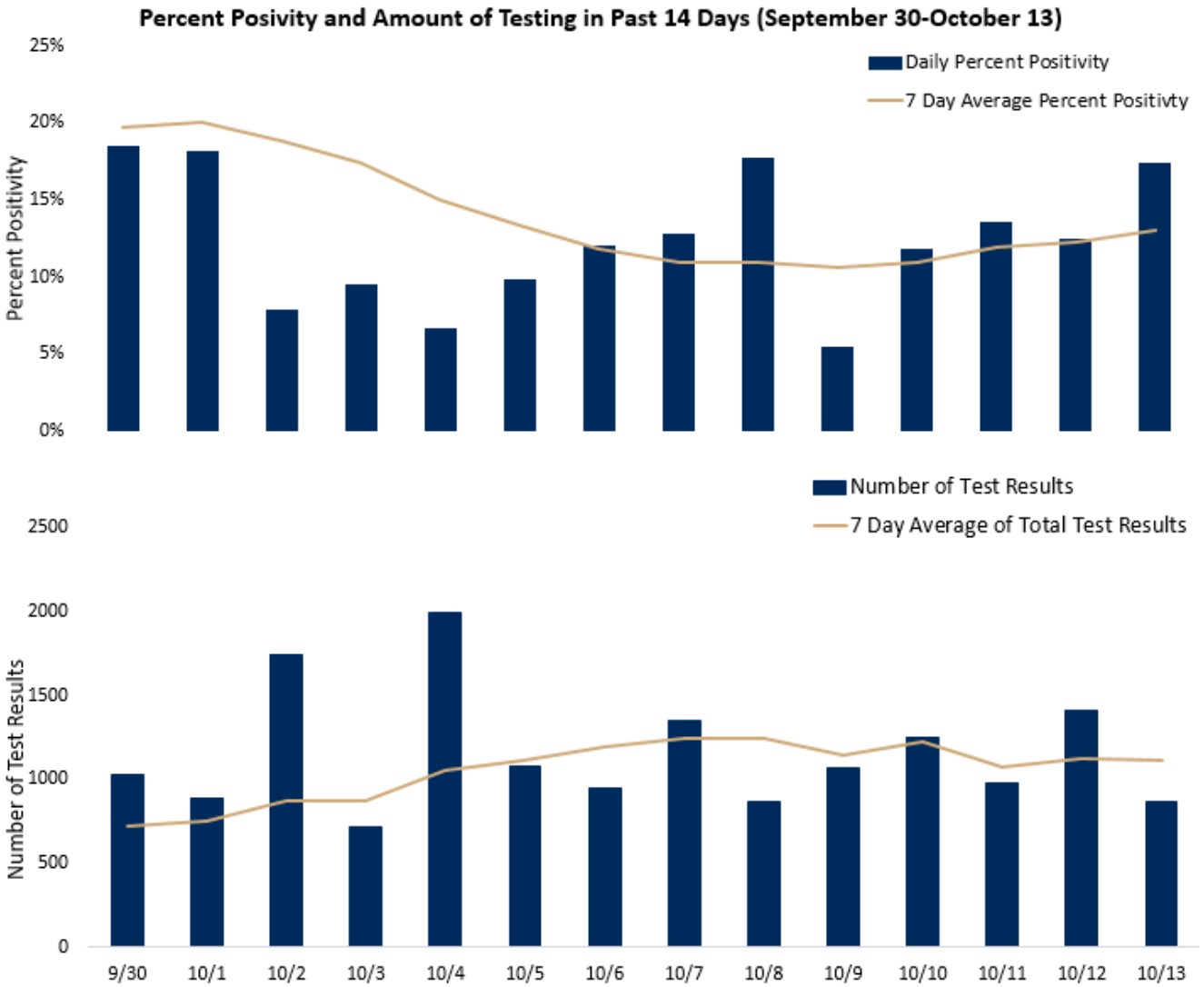


Amount of Testing and Percent Positivity

Adequate testing capacity and utilization is necessary for identification of active infections of COVID-19. Only through identification of cases may they be investigated to help prevent spread to others. Higher disease activity requires more testing to identify and isolate enough infected people to slow the spread. The percent positivity helps determine if adequate testing is being performed. When percent positivity is high, it may indicate that testing is inadequate to identify enough cases to help control the spread of disease through contact tracing. Our current goal is to have enough testing to keep the percent positivity below 5%.

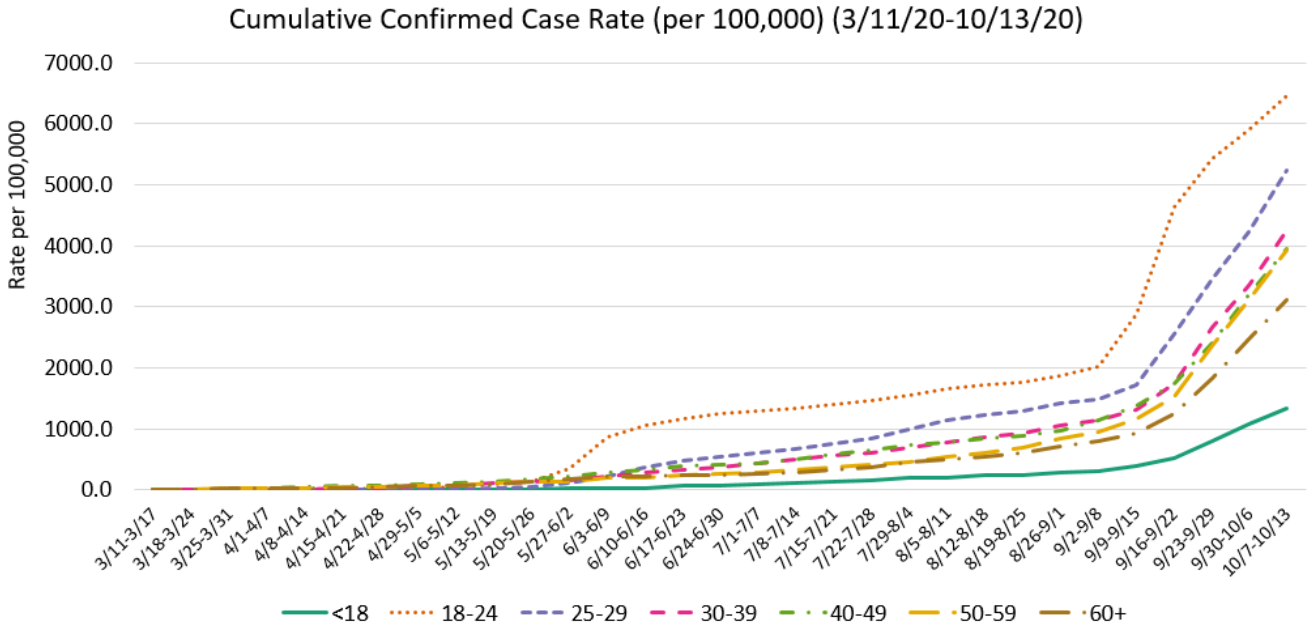
An average of **12.4% of tests were positive**, which is the same average percent positivity reported last week. This percent positivity continues to remain far from our goal of remaining below 5% positivity. Daily positivity ranged from 5.4% to 18.6%. An **average of 1155 tests** were conducted each day, which is stable with the average of 1151 tests per day reported last week.

There is a regional COVID-19 testing site at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh, which is averaging 868 tests per day over the past two weeks. **This additional testing is still not enough at this time and more community testing capacity is needed.** New testing sites include CVS pharmacies and Walmart.



Trending by Age Group

This graph shows how cumulative confirmed case rates by age group have changed over time. Cumulative case rates will always trend upward, it is the rate of increase in that trend that helps us understand what populations are being impacted the most. In recent weeks, case rates among many age groups have had a steep increase.



This table shows the case count and case rate by age group for the past two weeks and cumulatively. Over the past two weeks, **individuals aged 25-29 had the highest confirmed case rate**.

Age Group	Past Two Weeks (9/30/20-10/13/20)				Doubling Time (Days)	Cumulative Confirmed Case Count	Population***
	Case Count	Case Rate (per 100,000)	Percent increase in total cases in that age group	Percent of Cumulative Cases in that age group			
<18	164	530.3	65.9%	39.7%	19.4	413	30,928
18-24	197	1,031.0	19.0%	16.0%	56.3	1,233	19,108
25-29	181	1,786.4	51.7%	34.1%	23.5	531	10,132
30-39	306	1,587.7	59.8%	37.4%	20.9	818	19,273
40-49	283	1,549.1	64.6%	39.3%	19.7	721	18,269
50-59	355	1,555.2	65.6%	39.6%	19.4	896	22,826
60+	416	1,285.6	70.6%	41.4%	18.3	1,005	32,359

***Age Group Population Data comes from the 2018 census. Total Population size across all age groups differs slightly from total population size used to calculate Winnebago County Health Department jurisdiction case rate (153,748) which was determined using 2020 population data from the WI Department of Administration.

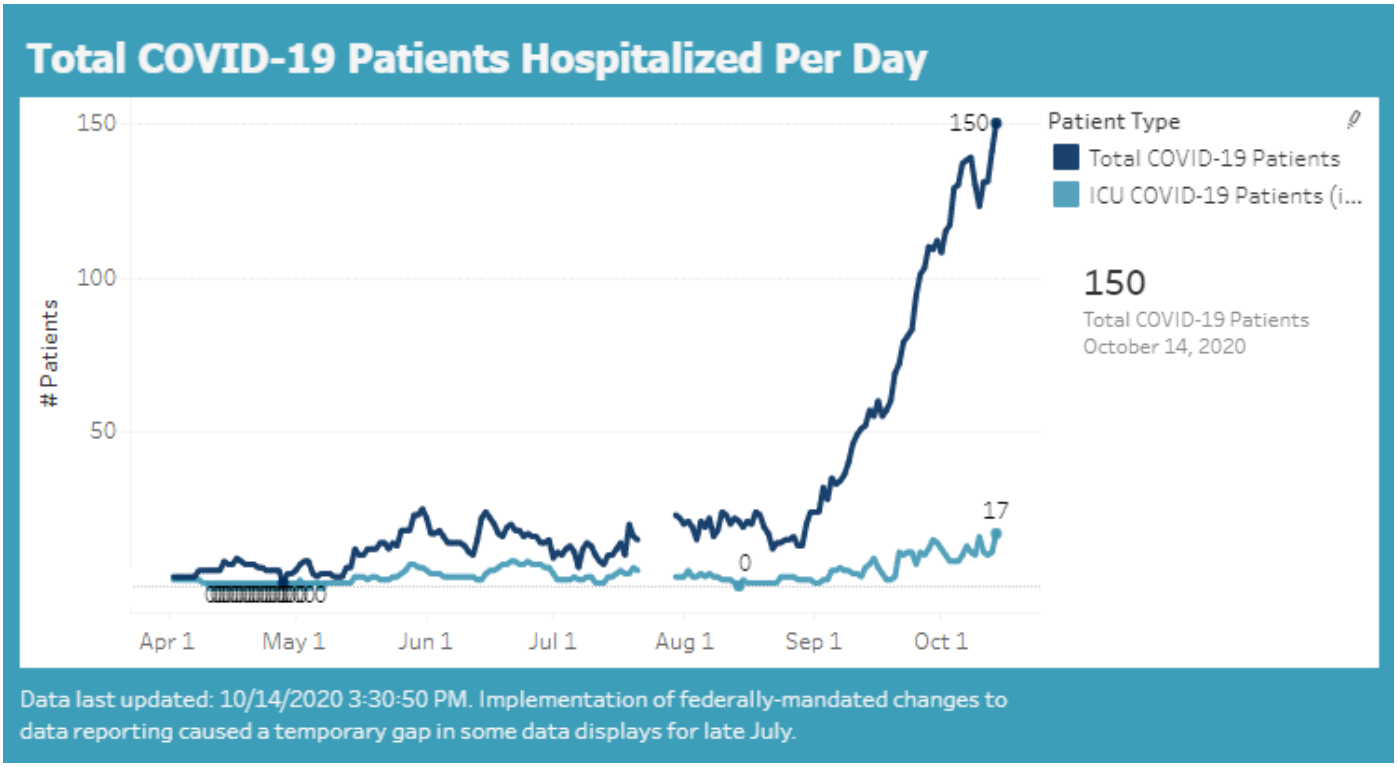
Healthcare Measures for the Fox Valley Area

The Fox Valley Area HERC Region includes Calumet, Green Lake, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago Counties.

It is vital that healthcare systems have adequate capacity to manage patient care in the context of a surge caused by COVID-19. Through adequate testing, case identification and investigation we can help keep case counts at levels that are manageable by our healthcare systems. When healthcare systems exceed their capacity, the ability to treat severe illness is compromised and patients do worse and/or do not get the care they need to survive the illness.

COVID-19 hospitalizations are hitting record levels across the state. In our Fox Valley region, COVID-19 hospitalizations are at the highest level to date and are **almost 3 times as high** as they were one month ago. As of 10/14/2020, there were **150 COVID-19 patients hospitalized** in the Fox Valley Area hospitals with 17 of those patients in the ICU.

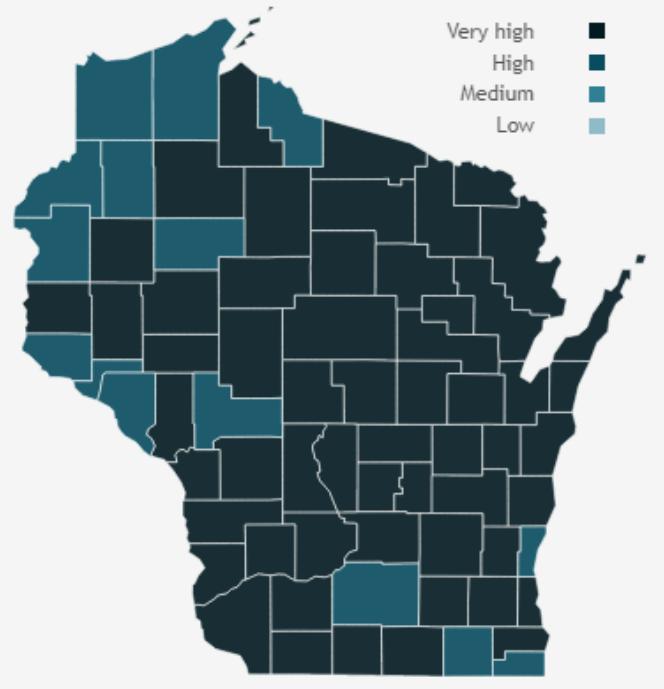
To view more information on healthcare measures in the Fox Valley Area and across the state, please visit https://www.wha.org/COVID19Update & https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/hosp-data.htm



Burden, Trajectory, and Activity Level Across Wisconsin in Past 14 Days

Updated 10/14/2020

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services classifies regions and counties as very high, high, medium, or low activity levels for COVID-19 spread by combining the case burden (case rate) and trajectory (change in cases over time) indicators. The state updates this information weekly on Wednesdays by 4 p.m. As of October 14, 2020, Winnebago County**** and the Fox Valley Region are both classified as having a **very high COVID-19 activity level.**



To view more information on these metrics, please visit https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm

Area	Case Count (Past 14 days)	Burden		Trajectory	Activity Level
Winnebago	2,469	1,458.0	Very High	-20% ▼	Very High ■
Fox Valley Area	7,178	1,316.1	Very High	N/A ↔	Very High ■
Outagamie	2,047	1,113.7	Very High	N/A ↔	Very High ■
Wisconsin	36,301	627.9	Very High	21% ▲	Very High ■

A trajectory of N/A means there was no significant change in the percent change in cases for this week compared to the previous week.

*****This data is provided by the Department of Health Services and may be different than the information provided by WCHD because the state reports data for the entire county, which includes the portions of Winnebago County that fall within the jurisdiction of the City of Menasha Health Department and City of Appleton Health Department.*