



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Winnebago County
Health Department**

Winnebago County Health Department COVID-19 Weekly Data Summary

October 1, 2020

Summary

- Oshkosh-Neenah is now listed by the [NY Times](#) as the #1 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 has, to date, failed.
- **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 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 that household members that are active outside of the home can infect you.
- COVID-19 hospitalizations are at record levels across the state. In our region, **COVID-19 hospitalizations are at the highest level to date** - more than 5 times as high as they were one month ago. As of 9/30/20, **Fox Valley Area hospitals had 112 COVID-19 patients hospitalized**, an increase from the 81 hospitalized patients last week with 14 of those patients in the ICU. Hospitals are pushing 90% capacity. Without a change in community behavior hospitals will be overwhelmed in the next several weeks or less.
- 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, mask, and physically distance.**
- The number of new cases continues to accelerate upwards and **has exceeded 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 801 and for this most recent week is 965. We had almost twice as many confirmed cases reported in just one month (2405 cases in Sept) than we had across 6 months (1354 cases in Mar-Aug).
- The confirmed case rate over the past 2 weeks for our jurisdiction is 1143.9 cases per 100,000, a 53% increase from the 748.8 per 100,000 reported last week, and the **highest biweekly case rate for our jurisdiction to date.** The doubling time for our cases is **15 days**. For all of Winnebago County, the case rate over the past 2 weeks is 1161.0, and for the Fox Valley [HERC](#) region it is 1035.6*, putting both at a **very high burden level**.
- Individuals aged 18-24 had the highest confirmed case rate of 2,538 per 100,000 over the past 2 weeks. This means over 2.5% of the total estimated 18- to 24-year-old population tested positive, and this is likely a significant underestimate of the true percent of this age group currently infected. Well over 5% of this population has confirmed positive to date and true rate of infection is likely multiple times higher.
- **Testing percent positivity is at 14.9%** for the past 2 weeks, which is up from 13.7% last week and trending farther away from our goal of remaining below 5% positivity. The [regional COVID-19 testing site](#) at Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh is now running at over 750 tests per day.
- **Contact tracing capacity has been overwhelmed.** Our goal is to reach out to all confirmed cases within 24 hours of being reported to the health department, but due to the current surge in cases we are days behind this goal. Additionally, 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.
- [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 16 – September 29, 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: 154,379). 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

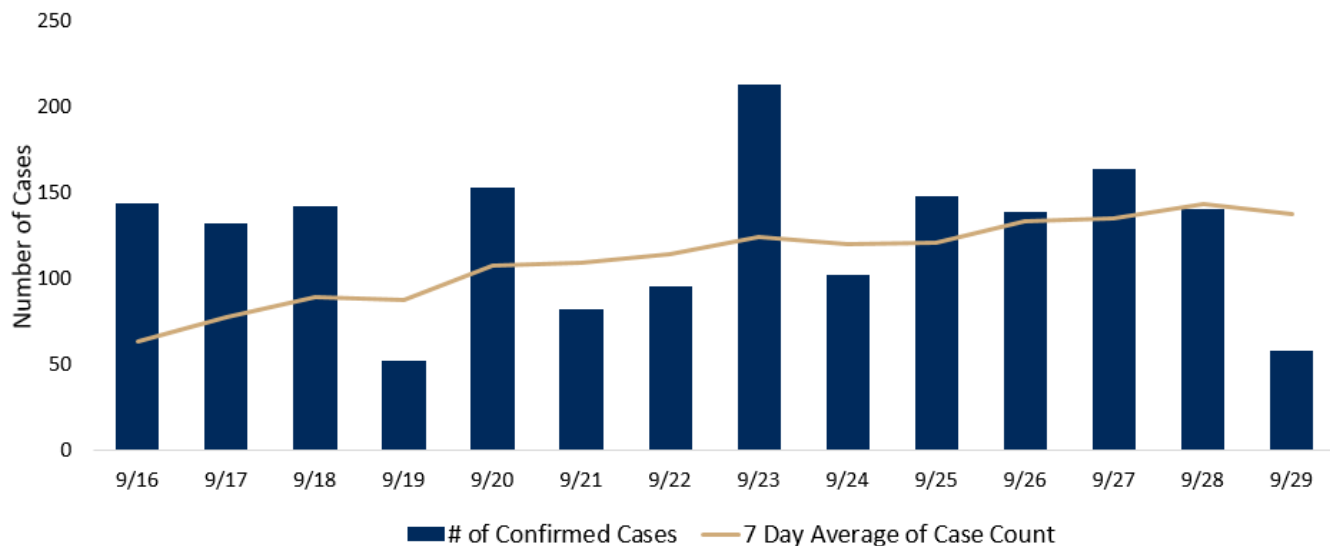
- **Cumulative Case Counts (3/9/2020 – 9/30/2020)**
 - Confirmed Cases: 3,759
 - Active Cases: 1,374 (37% of cumulative cases)
 - Recovered Cases: 2,359 (63% of cumulative cases)
 - Probable Cases: 134
 - Negative Cases: 33,526
 - *Deaths: 26
- **Case Counts for the Past 14 Days (9/16/2020 – 9/29/2020)**
 - Confirmed Cases: 1,766
 - Probable Cases: 40
 - Negative Cases: 2,364
 - **Deaths: 6

***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 126.1 cases per day, which is an increase from the 82.6 cases per day reported last week.** Daily confirmed cases ranged from 58 to 213. For a full disease curve, see the [dashboard](#) on our [website](#).

Daily Confirmed Case Count in Past 14 Days (September 16-September 29)



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 16 – September 29)
 - 1,143.9 cases per 100,000 population
 - Very High burden
 - Confirmed Case Rate for previous two weeks (September 9 – September 22): 748.8 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.

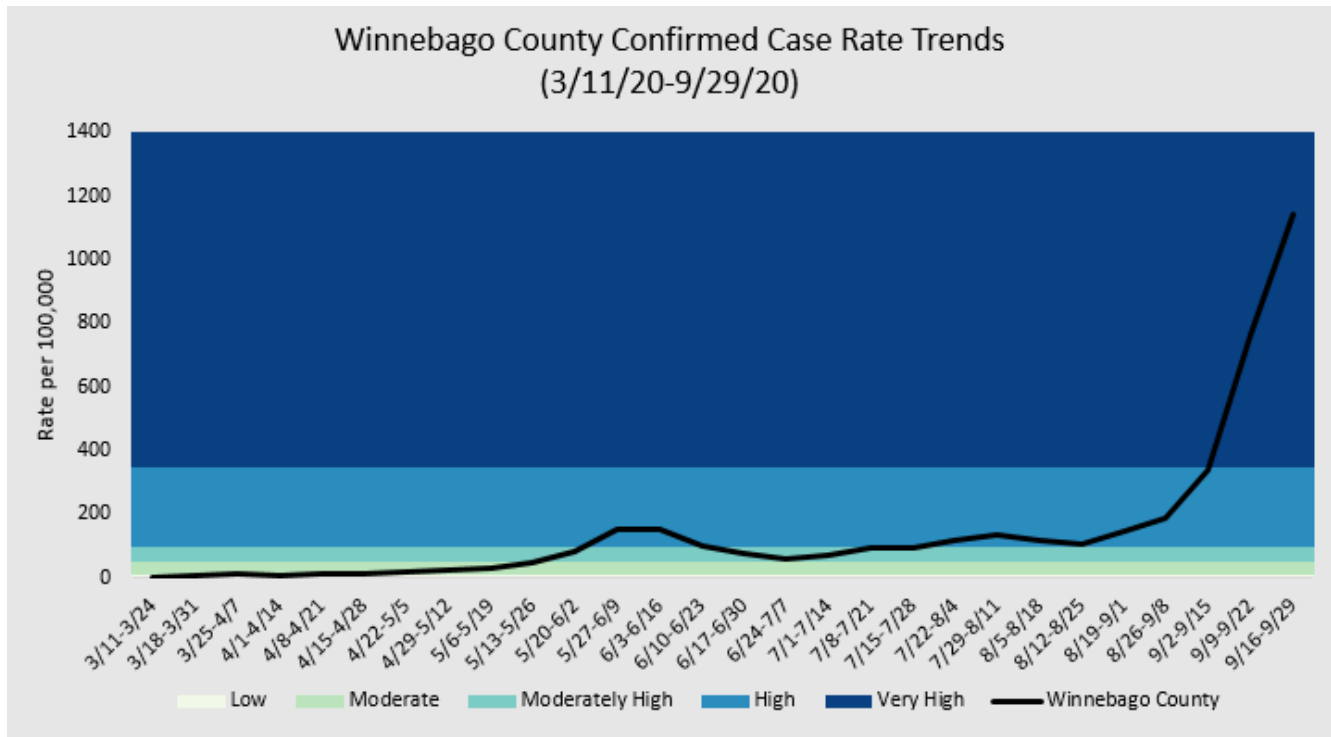
To be consistent with the state’s burden status categories, we have renamed our ‘critical’ category to be labelled ‘very high’.

- Trajectory: Percent change in number of confirmed cases from previous to current week
 - Growing
- 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.

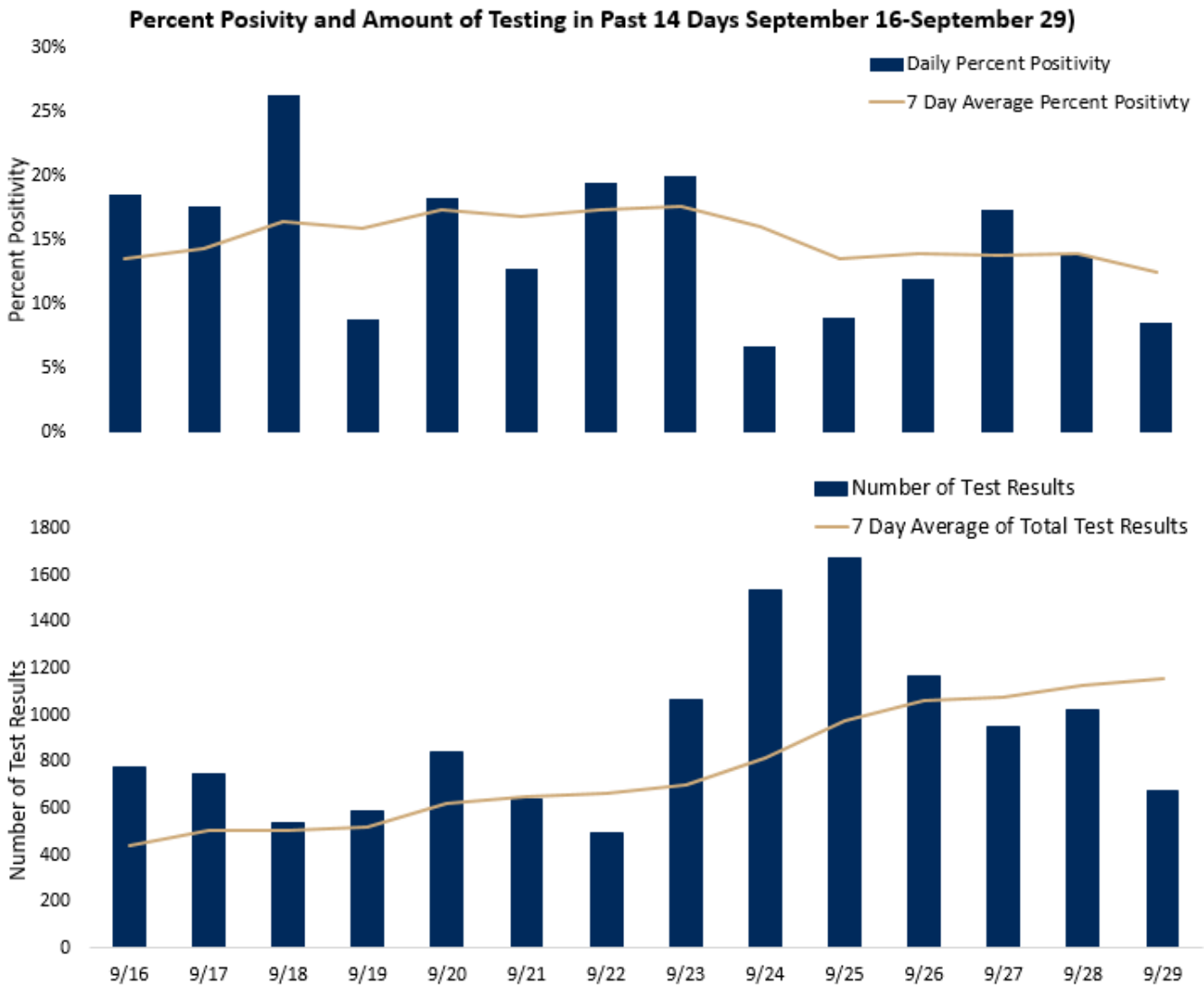


Amount of Testing and Percent Positivity

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%.

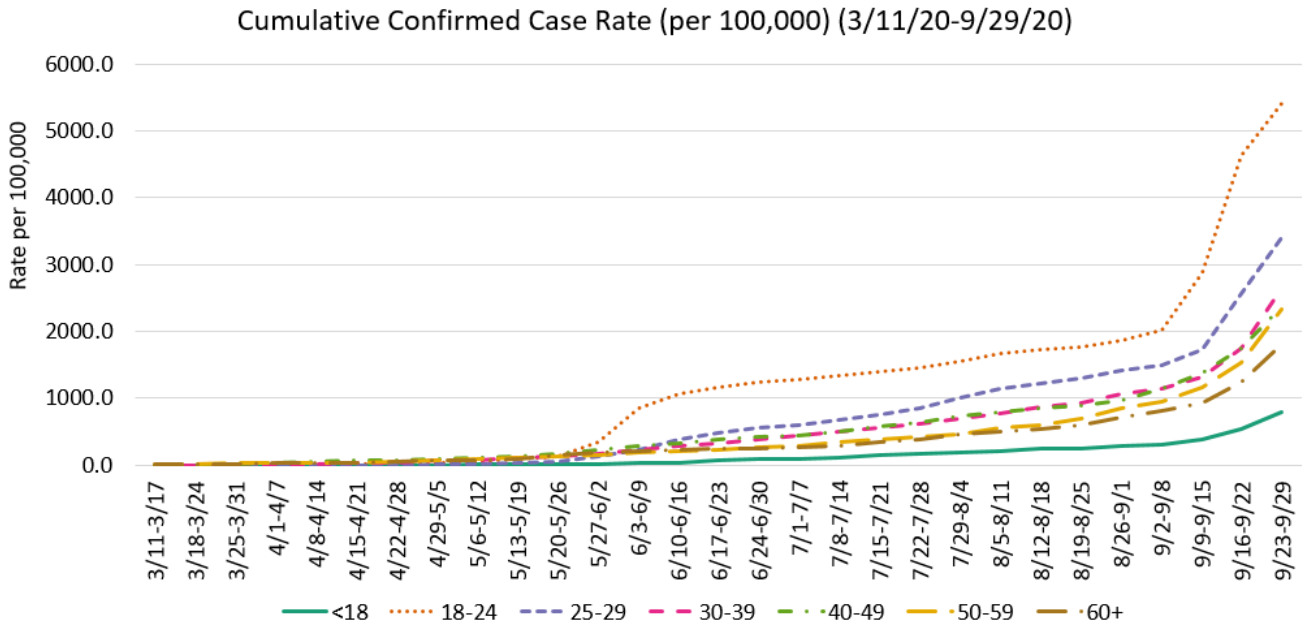
An average of **14.9% of tests were positive**, an increase from the 13.7% average percent positivity reported last week. This is trending farther away from our goal of remaining below 5% positivity. Daily positivity ranged from 6.6% to 26.2%. An **average of 908 tests** were conducted each day, which is an increase from the average of 616 tests per day reported last week.

There is a [regional COVID-19 testing site](#) at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh, which is averaging 800 tests per day. **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 this case the 18-24 year-old population has had a much higher rate of increase compared to other age groups. The cumulative case rate among the **18-24 age group is 1.6 times higher** than the next highest age group's cumulative case rate.



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 18-24 had the highest confirmed case rate**, which was 1.5 times higher than the second highest confirmed case rate.

Age Group	Past Two Weeks (9/16/20-9/29/20)				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	125	404.2	104.2%	51.0%	13.7	245	30,928
18-24	485	2538.2	88.3%	46.9%	15.5	1034	19,108
25-29	171	1687.7	98.3%	49.6%	14.3	345	10,132
30-39	255	1323.1	100.4%	50.1%	14.1	509	19,273
40-49	182	996.2	72.8%	42.1%	17.9	432	18,269
50-59	267	1169.7	101.1%	50.3%	14.0	531	22,826
60+	281	868.4	93.4%	48.3%	14.9	582	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 (154,379) which was determined using 2019 population data from the [WI Department of Administration](#).

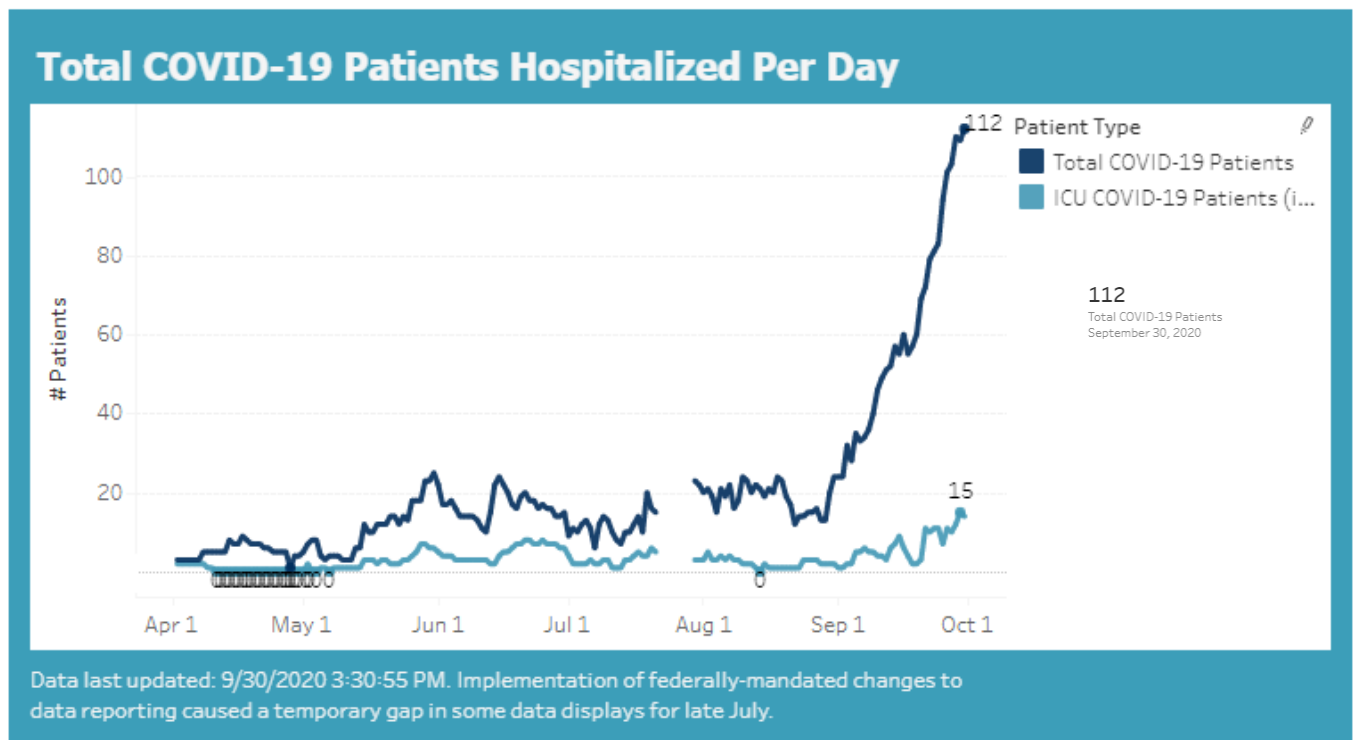
Healthcare Measures for the Fox Valley Area

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 **more than 5 times as high** as they were one month ago. As of 9/30/2020, there were **112 COVID-19 patients hospitalized** in the Fox Valley Area hospitals with 14 of those patients in the ICU.

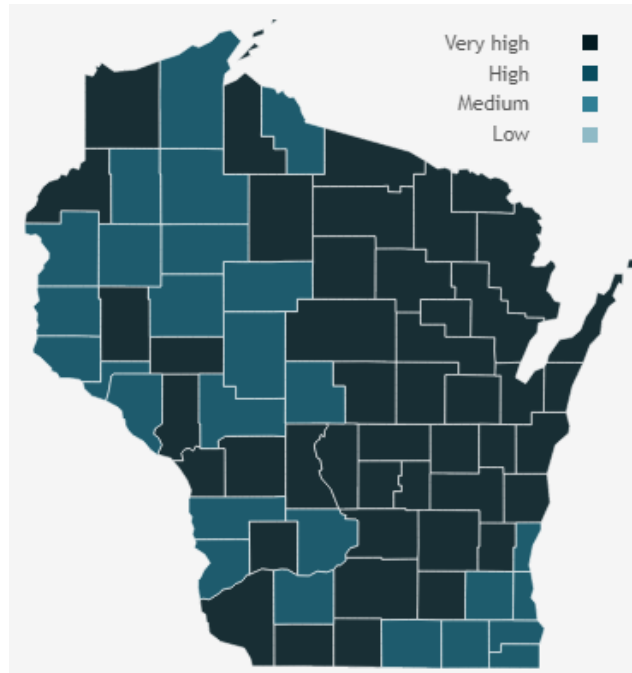
To view more information on healthcare measures in the Fox Valley Area and across the state, please visit <https://www.wha.org/COVID19Update> & <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/hosp-data.htm>



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

Updated 9/30/2020

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 September 30, 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	1966	1161.0 Very High	40% ▲	Very High ■
Fox Valley Area	5,648	1035.6 Very High	45% ▲	Very High ■
Outagamie	1,905	1036.5 Very High	33% ▲	Very High ■
Wisconsin	29,562	511.4 Very High	24% ▲	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](#).