



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Winnebago County
Health Department**

Winnebago County Health Department COVID-19 Weekly Data Summary

September 17, 2020

Summary

- There is now **significant uncontrolled spread** of COVID-19 in Winnebago County and the Fox Valley area due to a lack of community participation in physical distancing, mask wearing, and disregard for quarantine and isolation recommendations. The uncontrolled spread of cases is threatening the schools' ability to remain open for in-person education and employers' ability to keep a healthy workforce, and it is rapidly increasing the burden of our area hospitals and healthcare workforce. The rapid acceleration of cases is largely being driven by the young adult population with spread to other age groups in household, workplace and educational settings. Cases are likely to continue to surge over the coming weeks and will further compromise any ability to slow the spread.
- The current burden of confirmed COVID-19 cases is high and the activity level is high. **Numbers of new cases continue to accelerate upward and are exceeding 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 140 and for this most recent week is 374 - **a 167% increase in cases in one week.**
- The confirmed case rate over the past 2 weeks for our jurisdiction is 332.9 cases per 100,000, a **78% increase** from the 186.6 per 100,000 reported last week, and the highest biweekly case rate for our jurisdiction to date. For all of Winnebago County, the case rate over the past 2 weeks is 353.7, and for the Fox Valley HERC region it is 409.3*, putting both at a **critical burden level.**
- Individuals aged 20-29 had the highest confirmed case rate of 707.9 per 100,000 over the past 2 weeks.
- **Testing percent positivity is at 9%** for the past 2 weeks, which is up from 6% last week and trending farther away from our goal of remaining below 5% positivity. High positivity indicates that more testing capacity is needed. A [regional COVID-19 testing site](#) opened on September 1 at Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh and is running beyond planned capacity of 500 tests per day. This additional testing is still not enough at this time and more community testing capacity is needed.
- COVID-19 hospitalizations in our region are at the highest level to date and have **quadrupled** since the end of August. As of September 16, there were 60 COVID-19 patients hospitalized in the Fox Valley area, an increase from the 36 hospitalized patients last week, with 6 of those patients in the ICU.
- **Contact tracing capacity is significantly strained.** All confirmed cases are reached out to within 24 hours of being reported to the health department, but 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.
- Eight Wisconsin cities are in the [New York Times top 20 list](#) of metro areas where cases are rising the fastest in the United States, and **the Oshkosh-Neenah area is ranked #8.**
- To prevent more harm, our community must cease unnecessary travel, avoid gathering with people outside your household, physically distance at all times, wear a mask when not at home or when in the presence of non-household persons, stay home when ill, heed isolation and quarantine guidance, get tested when recommended and continue frequent handwashing. Evidence has shown that people are most likely to test positive after spending time in crowded areas such as bars, indoor restaurants, and gatherings like parties, weddings, funerals, etc.

Background Information

This report provides *preliminary* data on the confirmed COVID-19 cases from September 2 – September 15, 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](#)

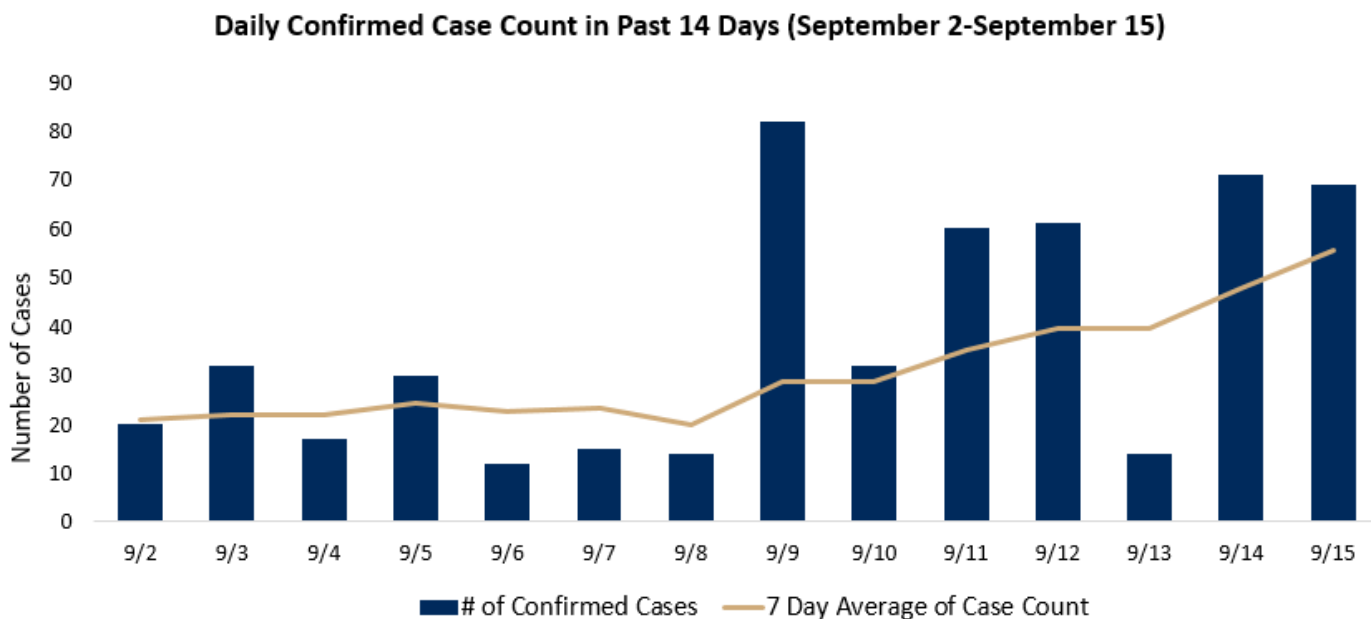
Case Counts

- **Cumulative Case Counts (3/9/2020 – 9/15/2020)**
 - Confirmed Cases: 1840
 - Active Cases: 380 (21% of cumulative cases)
 - Recovered Cases: 1440 (78% of cumulative cases)
 - Probable Cases: 88
 - Negative Cases: 31,006
 - *Deaths: 20
- **Case Counts for the Past 14 Days (9/2/2020 – 9/15/2020)**
 - Confirmed Cases: 514
 - Probable Cases: 10
 - Negative Cases: 3,061
 - **Deaths: 1

***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 37.8 cases per day, which is an increase from the 20.3 cases per day reported last week.** Daily confirmed cases ranged from 12 to 82. 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 2 – September 15)
 - 332.9 cases per 100,000 population
 - High burden
 - Confirmed Case Rate for previous two weeks (August 26 – September 8): 186.6 per 100,000 population

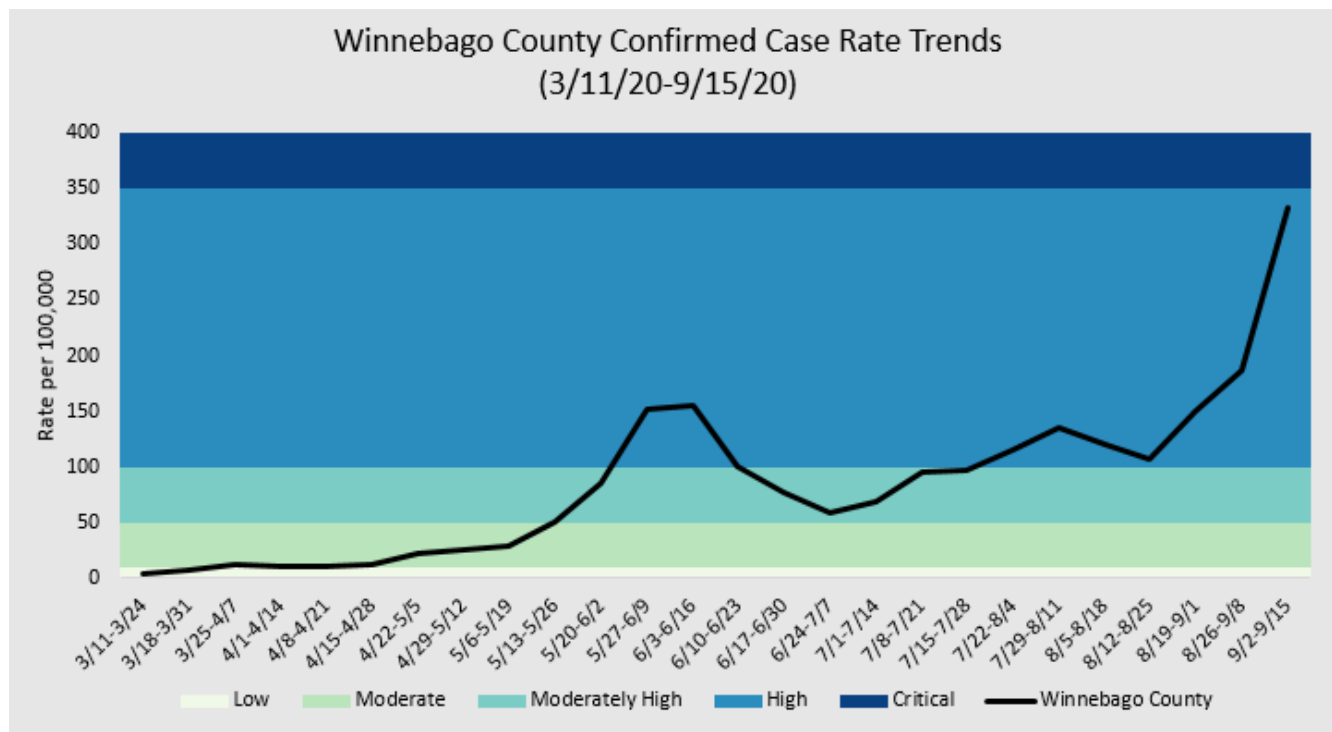
Burden Status	Case Rate per 100,000 residents in the past two weeks	Number of Cases in the past two weeks
Low	Case rate is less than or equal to 10.	Less than 15 cases
Moderate	Case rate is greater than, but less than or equal to 50.	Greater than 15 cases, but less than or equal to 77 cases.
Moderately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

- Trajectory: Percent change in number of confirmed cases from previous to current week
 - Growing
- Activity: Summary indicator based on the burden and trajectory
 - 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.

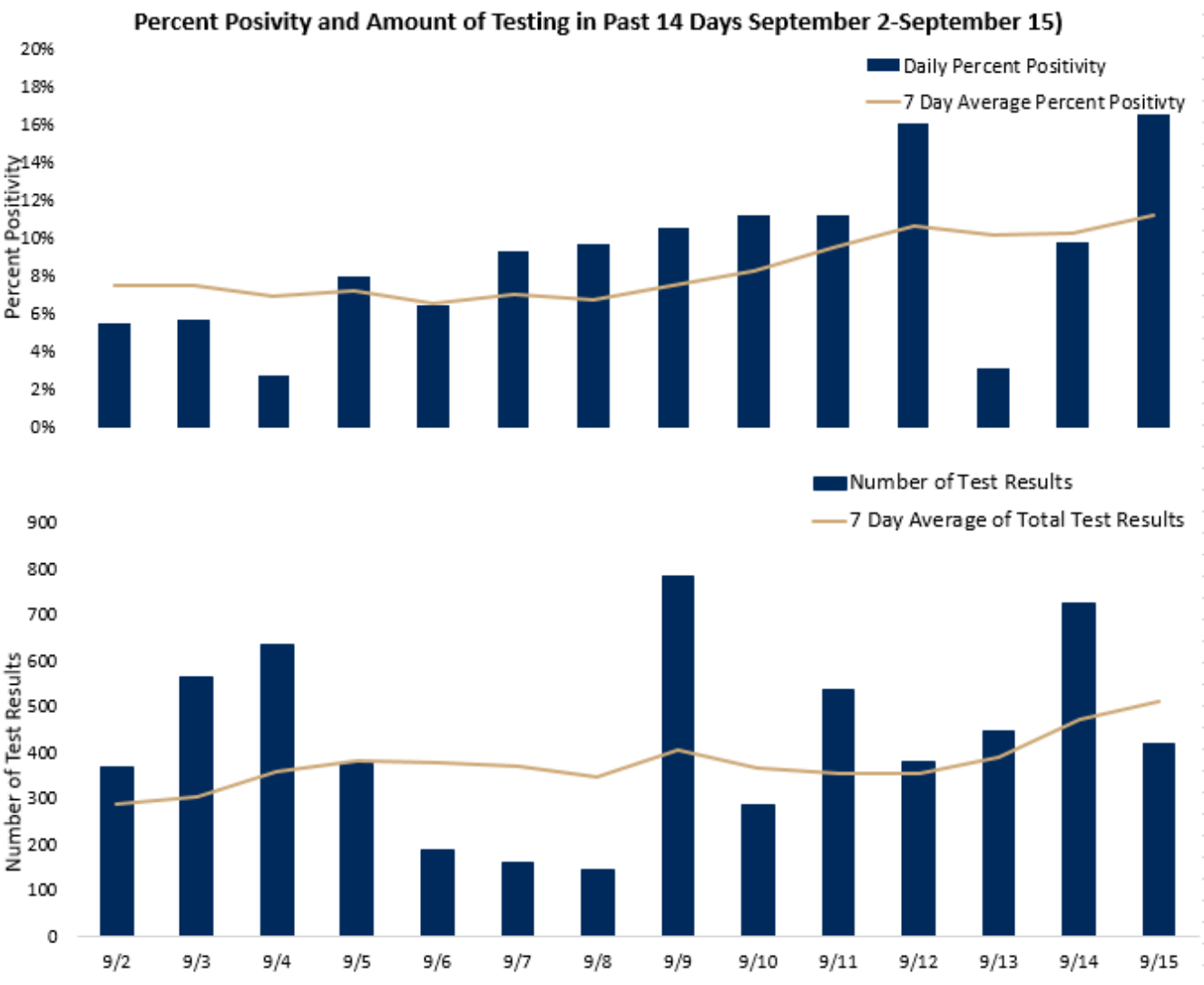


Amount of Testing and Percent Positivity

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%.

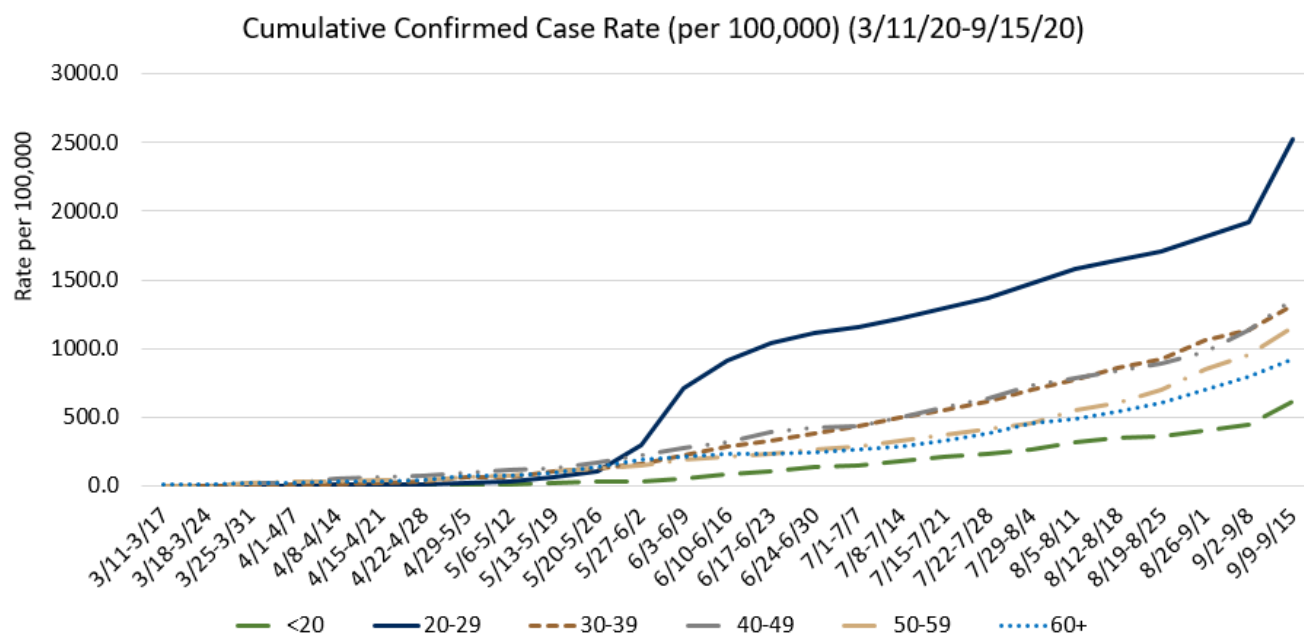
An average of **9.0% of tests were positive**, an increase from the 6.0% average percent positivity reported last week. This is trending farther away from our goal of remaining below 5% positivity. Daily positivity ranged from 3.2% to 16.5%. An **average of 429 tests** were conducted each day, which is an increase from the average of 367 tests per day reported last week.

A [regional COVID-19 testing site](#) opened on September 1 at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh and is running beyond planned capacity of 500 tests per day. **This additional testing is still not enough at this time and more community testing capacity is needed.**



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 20-29-year-old population has had a much higher rate of increase compared to other age groups. The cumulative case rate among the **20-29 age group is 1.9 times higher** than the next highest age group's cumulative case rate. The 20-29 age group had a large jump in the cumulative case rate the past week.



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 20-29 had the highest confirmed case rates.**

Age Group	Past Two Weeks (9/2/20-9/15/20)			Cumulative Confirmed Case Count	Population***
	Case Count	Case Rate (per 100,000)	Percent of Cumulative Cases in that age group		
<20	78	217.4	35.1%	222	35,871
20-29	172	707.9	28.0%	614	24,297
30-39	49	254.2	19.3%	254	19,273
40-49	71	388.6	28.5%	249	18,269
50-59	72	315.4	27.2%	265	22,826
60+	72	222.5	24.0%	300	32,359

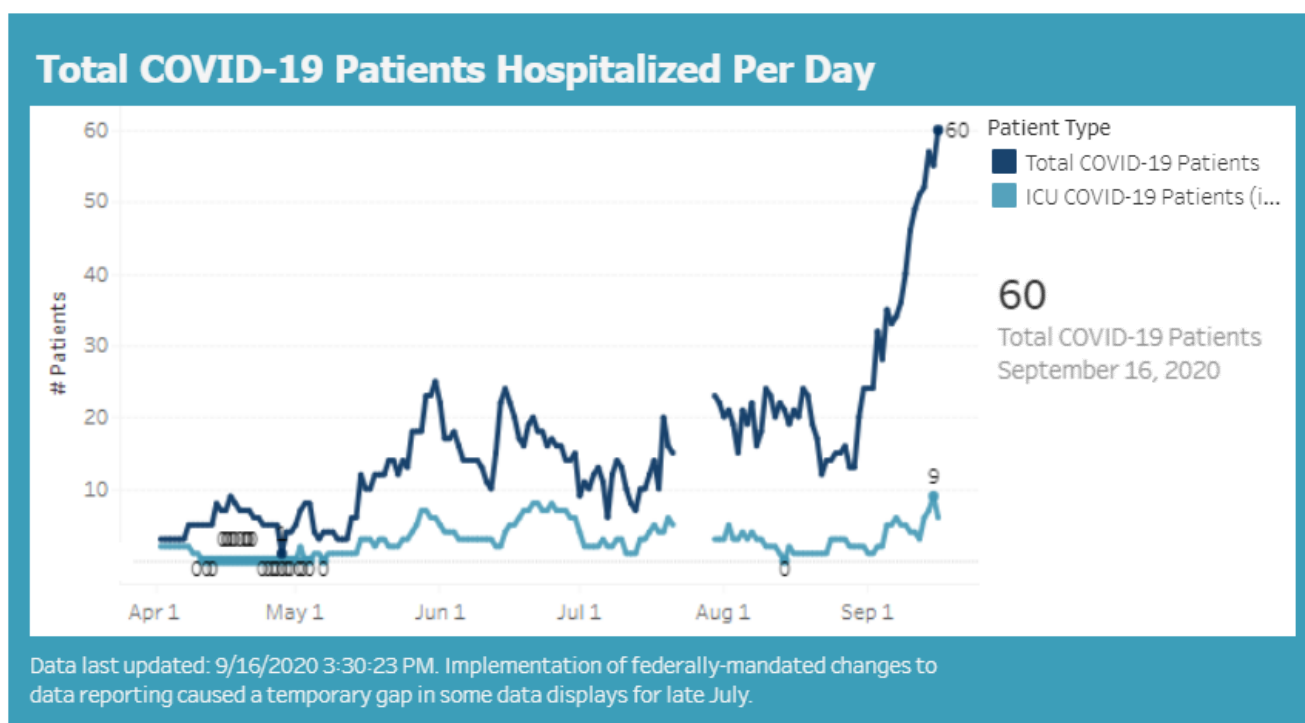
***Age Group Population Data comes from the [2018 census](#). Total Population size across all age groups differs slightly from total population size used to calculate Winnebago County Health Department jurisdiction case rate (154,379) which was determined using 2019 population data from the [WI Department 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. As of 9/16/2020, there are **60 COVID-19 patients hospitalized** in the Fox Valley Area with 6 of those patients in the ICU. The number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized has **quadrupled** since the end of August. On August 29, 13 patients were hospitalized and as of Wednesday, just over two weeks later, that number has grown to 60.

To view more information on healthcare measures in the Fox Valley Area and across the state, please visit <https://www.wha.org/COVID19Update>



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

Updated 9/16/2020

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services classifies regions and counties as 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 at 2 p.m. As of September 16, 2020, Winnebago County**** and the Fox Valley Region are both classified as having a **high COVID-19 activity level**.

The DHS website does not have a critical burden status. To be consistent in our documents we have a critical burden status cut off with a case rate of 350 per 100,000. Because of this, burden status may differ from what is listed on the website.

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

COVID-19 Case Indicators (last 2 weeks)

Updated: 9/16/2020

Select area

☒ County

☐ HERC Region

Activity level

☒ Medium

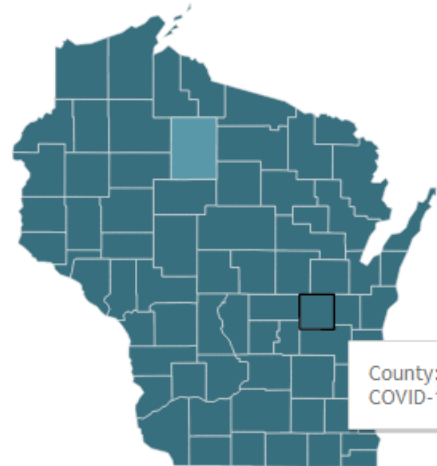
☐ High

COVID-19 activity level

Highlight area

Highlight Area

Click on a county or region on the map to filter data below.



Burden (case rate), trajectory (percent case change), and activity level

Area	Count	Burden	Trajectory	Trend	Activity Level
Winnebago	599	353.7 Critical	133.9	▲	High
Fox Valley Area	2232	409.3 Critical	41.3	▲	High
Outagamie	1002	545.2 Critical	31.3	▲	High
Wisconsin	15,585	269.6 High	51.1	▲	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](#).