Outbreaks in Wisconsin

Outbreaks and Investigations

Wisconsin has now seen six confirmed cases of COVID-19. And with more testing facilities online, we can expect to see more cases. Identifying cases allows DHS and our local partners to move quickly to isolate a case and contain spread of the virus.

You can help do that by following basic hygiene practices. Wash your hands with soap and water, cover your coughs, and if you are sick - stay home.

COVID-19 (2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China)
Updated 3/11/2020

Wisconsin Investigation Details
As of 4 p.m. March 11, 2020
We plan to update this information by 2 p.m. on weekdays.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Division of Public Health (DPH) are closely monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19.

Read our news releases on COVID-19:

- March 11, confirming three additional cases.
- March 10, confirming third case.
- March 9, confirming second case.
- February 5, confirming first case.

More information can be found on our COVID-19 webpage.

Wisconsin COVID-19 Test Results

Test Results	Number of People
Negative	53
Positive	5
Positive: Recovered	1

More labs across the country are able to test for COVID-19. And now, Wisconsin clinicians can order tests without public health approval. Since tests are widely available, we will no longer report the number of people tested.

Key messages

- Cases of COVID-19 have been detected in Wisconsin. This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you to check this page and our COVID-19 page for the most up-to-date, accurate information. Learn the facts about COVID-19, P-02592 is available in multiple languages.
- Influenza and other respiratory viruses are common in Wisconsin at this time of year. To stay healthy, wash your hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home when you are sick. Learn the best way to protect yourself and those around you from respiratory illnesses, P-02591 is available in multiple languages.
- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause illness in people and animals. For general information about coronavirus, including signs and symptoms, go to our coronavirus webpage.
- For the most current report on COVID-19 infections globally, visit the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Traveling? The U.S. State Department has guidance for travelers.

CDC resources

Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Our Communities: Everyone has a role to play in getting ready and staying healthy.

- Situation summary
- About COVID-19
- Cases in the U.S.
- People at risk for serious illness from COVID-19
- Protect yourself and your family
- Frequently asked questions and answers

Information for specific audiences:

- Health care professionals
  - Flowchart to identify and assess COVID-19
- Public health professionals
  - PUI case investigation form
- Laboratory professionals
- Emergency medical service (EMS) providers

Severe Lung Disease Among People who Reported Vaping
Updated 3/5/2020

Wisconsin Case Counts
As of March 5, 2020
We plan to update case counts by 2 p.m. on Thursdays.

More Information about the lung disease and vaping investigation can be found on the Lung Disease and Vaping Investigation webpage.

Media requests should go to the DHS media or 608-266-1683.

Case Status	Number of Cases
Confirmed and Probable Cases*	108
Additional Patients Under Investigation	2

*We report confirmed and probable patient cases as one number because the two definitions are very similar, and this is the most accurate way to understand the number of people affected.

Campus Outbreaks of Adenovirus
Updated 12/4/2019

- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is working with local health departments, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and college and university health services directors in our state to track multiple outbreaks of respiratory illness caused by adenoviruses and to provide prevention information to students and staff.
- People usually get sick with adenoviruses when they spend time with large groups of people (for example, at universities, hospitals, or schools). There are over 50 different types of adenoviruses. Usually adenoviruses cause mild illness, but sometimes they can be serious. The types of symptoms you have depend on which type of adenovirus you have and the part of the body that the virus is affecting.
  - Adenoviruses most commonly cause respiratory illness, which can range from cold and flu-like symptoms to bronchitis and pneumonia.
  - Some adenoviruses can cause diarrhea or pink eye, and in rare cases, inflammation of the bladder or severe neurological disease.
  - Anyone can get sick from an adenovirus. People with a weakened immune system, or those who have lung or heart problems are more likely to become very sick from an adenovirus.
  - Antibiotics do not work against adenoviruses.
- There are a number of ways you can get an adenovirus:

1. Breathing in adenovirus from the air: someone with the virus coughs or sneezes and the virus gets into the air. It is then breathed in by someone around them.
2. Having direct contact with someone who has an adenovirus: touching or shaking hands with someone who has the virus on their skin and then touching your hands to your mouth, nose, or eyes.
3. Touching surfaces with adenovirus: touching a surface (for example, a door knob, counter top, or phone) with adenovirus on it and then touching your hands to mouth, nose, or eyes. NOTE: Adenoviruses are able to survive on surfaces for a long time. It is important to wash toys, towels, and other surfaces often to make sure it doesn't spread to others.
4. Having contact with poop: Some adenoviruses can spread through poop, for example, during diaper changing.
5. Having contact with water that has adenovirus: Adenoviruses can also spread through water, such as swimming pools, but this is less common.

NOTE: Sometimes the virus can be shed (released from the body) for a long time after you recover from an adenovirus, especially if you have a weakened immune system. Usually you do not have any symptoms during this time of “virus shedding,” even though you can still spread adenovirus to others.

- The best ways to prevent the spread of adenoviruses are to:
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Do not have close contact with people who are sick.
- Additional information can be found at the following websites:
  - Wisconsin Department of Health Services: Adenovirus
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Outbreak of *E. coli* Infections Linked to Romaine Lettuce
Updated 12/19/2019

- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is working with local health departments, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and consumer Protection (DATCP), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 infections linked to romaine lettuce.
  - As of December 19, 2019, the CDC reports that 138 people in 25 states are infected with the outbreak strain of STEC. There have been 72 people hospitalized and 13 cases of hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), a type of kidney failure. No deaths have been reported.
  - As of December 19, 2019, Wisconsin has 33 confirmed cases linked to this outbreak. Of these, 14 people have been hospitalized and 2 have developed HUS.

- Epidemiologic, laboratory, and traceback evidence collected so far shows that romaine lettuce from the Salinas, California, growing region is a likely source of this outbreak.
  - On November 21, 2019, a list of salad products were recalled after laboratory testing found the same strain of *E. coli* that was making people sick in Maryland in romaine lettuce harvested from the Salinas, California growing region.
  - On December 6, 2019, Wisconsin health officials found *E. coli* O157 in an unopened bag of chopped Fresh Express® brand Leafy Green Romaine salad from Salinas, California that was collected from an ill person's home. On December 13, 2019, specialized laboratory testing called whole genome sequencing showed that the *E. coli* O157 strain found in the romaine matches the outbreak strain of *E. coli* that has made people in Wisconsin and other states sick.
  - While *E. coli* O157 was found in a bag of chopped Fresh Express® brand romaine, not all ill people in Wisconsin included in this outbreak report eating Fresh Express® brand romaine. No single brand, product, or type of romaine lettuce has been reported by all ill individuals. The investigation is ongoing to determine the source of contamination and if additional products are linked to illness.
- Wisconsin DHS, the CDC, and FDA are advising people not to eat, sell, or serve any romaine lettuce harvested from Salinas, California, until more information is available.
- While certain romaine-containing products were recalled, many romaine lettuce and romaine-containing products are still available on store shelves.
- Advice to Consumers, Retailers, and Restaurants:
  - Most romaine lettuce products are labeled with a harvest location showing where they were grown. This advice includes all types of romaine lettuce harvested from Salinas, California, such as whole heads of romaine, hearts of romaine, and packages of precut lettuce and salad mixes which contain romaine, including baby romaine, spring mix, and Caesar salad.
  - Restaurants and retailers should check the label on bags or boxes of romaine lettuce, or ask their suppliers about the source of their romaine lettuce.
  - Suppliers, distributors, and others in the supply chain should not ship or sell romaine harvested in Salinas, California.
- If you have romaine lettuce at home:
  - If the packaging has "Salinas" on the label in any form (whether alone or with the name of another location), don't eat it, and throw it away.
  - If it isn't labeled with a growing region, don't eat it, and throw it away.
  - If you don't know if the lettuce is romaine or whether a salad mix contains romaine, don't eat it, and throw it away.
  - Wash and sanitize drawers or shelves in refrigerators where romaine lettuce was stored. Follow these five steps to clean your refrigerator.
- If you are buying romaine lettuce at a store:
  - If the packaging has "Salinas" on the label in any form (whether alone or with the name of another location), don't buy it.
  - If it isn't labeled with a growing region, don't buy it.
  - If the packaging has "Salinas" on the label in any form (whether alone or with the name of another location), don't sell or serve it.
  - If it isn't labeled with a growing region, don't sell or serve it.
- About Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC):
  - People with STEC usually get sick with bloody diarrhea and stomach cramps 3-4 days after eating food contaminated with the germ. Contact your doctor if you think you ate romaine lettuce from the Salinas region of California and are having any symptoms.
  - Remember to wash your fresh fruits and vegetables before eating them, even if they have been "pre-washed."
- Additional information can be found on the following websites:
  - Department of Health Services: STEC fact sheet
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Hepatitis A Infection in a Mondovi Hansen's IGA Food Worker
Updated 11/21/2019

- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is working with the Buffalo County Health Department, the Department

of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding a confirmed case of hepatitis A virus infection in a food handler.

- A food handler with hepatitis A infection is concerning because of the potential for food contamination.
- This individual worked at the Mondovi Hansen's IGA store deli while they were able to spread Hepatitis A, from October 28 through November 17, 2019.
- Health officials are advising people who shopped at the Mondovi Hansen's IGA during October 28 and November 17, 2019 and ate produce or deli items to call their doctor. They should ask about their risk of exposure to hepatitis A virus and options for vaccination (if not already vaccinated).
- There is no risk of exposure outside of these dates.

- Symptoms of hepatitis A infection can include abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dark urine, clay-colored stool, fever, chills, and yellow skin and eyes (jaundice).
  - Hepatitis A symptoms occur between 15 and 50 days after exposure and can last for several weeks to months. Most people recover from hepatitis A on their own, but occasionally patients may need to be hospitalized. Hepatitis A is rarely fatal.
  - Antibiotics do not work against hepatitis A virus.
- The best ways to prevent the spread of hepatitis A virus are:
  - Get the hepatitis A vaccine. A single shot of the hepatitis A vaccine can help prevent an infection if given within two weeks of being exposed to hepatitis A virus.
  - Always wash your hands with soap and water after using the bathroom or changing a diaper. Hand sanitizer is NOT effective against Hepatitis A virus.
  - Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water before and during food preparation and before eating food.
- Additional information can be found at the following websites:
  - Wisconsin Department of Health Services: Hepatitis A
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Hepatitis A Cases Linked to Blackberries
Updated 12/11/2019

- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is working with local health departments, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of hepatitis A that may be linked to fresh, non-organic blackberries. These blackberries were sold at Fresh Thyme Farmers Market and Woodman's Market stores during September 9 through September 30, 2019.
- A single, common supplier of these berries has not been identified and no recall has been issued at this time.
  - Ill patients reported eating fresh, non-organic blackberries from Fresh Thyme Farmers Market or Woodman's Market stores in Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.
  - As of December 11, 2019, the CDC reports that 18 people in six states are infected with the outbreak strains of hepatitis A.
  - Wisconsin has five confirmed cases linked to this outbreak. Three cases in Wisconsin have been hospitalized.
  - Ill patients reported their illnesses starting between October 15 and November 5, 2019.
- If you purchased any blackberries from a Fresh Thyme or Woodman's location between September 9 and September 30, 2019, do not eat them and throw them away.
  - Check your freezer for these blackberries. If you froze them to eat later, do not eat them and throw them away.
  - If you ate any of these blackberries within the last two weeks and are not vaccinated against hepatitis A, contact your doctor or local health department to discuss vaccination options.
- Symptoms of hepatitis A infection can include abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dark urine, clay-colored stool, fever, chills, and yellow skin and eyes (jaundice).
  - Hepatitis A symptoms occur between 15 and 50 days after exposure and can last for several weeks to months. Most people recover from hepatitis A on their own, but occasionally patients may need to be hospitalized. Hepatitis A is rarely fatal.
  - Antibiotics do not work against hepatitis A virus.

- Additional information can be found on the following websites:
  - Wisconsin Department of Health Services: Hepatitis A
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Investigation
Updated 11/2/18

- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is working with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to investigate bovine tuberculosis (TB) in a dairy herd located in Dane County. The Wisconsin TB Program is working with Public Health Madison and Dane County to complete a contact investigation on the farm and identify individuals who may need TB testing.
- Precautions are being taken by DATCP and the farm to ensure the safety of both meat and milk. Consumers and the general public are not at risk of contracting TB infection from this herd. Food safety laws prevent meat from infected animals from entering the food chain and the pasteurization process destroys disease-causing organisms in milk.
- People are not at risk if they have made only brief visits to the affected farm, have not consumed raw milk, or have not worked closely for extended periods of time with animals. Visiting the farm, living near the farm, or making deliveries to the farm does not pose a risk for becoming infected with bovine TB.
- Additional information on bovine TB can be found on the following websites:
  - Bovine TB in Animals and Humans Brochure - DATCP - English version, Spanish version
  - *M. bovis* in Humans Fact Sheet - CDC - English version, Spanish version

To view previous outbreaks and investigations, please visit our Past Outbreaks in Wisconsin page.

Last Revised: March 11, 2020

Language Access and Notice of Nondiscrimination

English

Español (Spanish)

Hmoob (Hmong)

繁體中文 (Chinese)

Deutsch (German)

العربية (Arabic)

Русский (Russian)

한국어 (Korean)

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

Deitsch (Pennsylvania Dutch)

ພາສາລາວ (Laotian)

Français (French)

Polski (Polish)

हिंदी (Hindi)

Shqip (Albanian)

Tagalog (Tagalog – Filipino)

Soomaali (Somali)

Wisconsin Agencies

Careers

Public Meeting Notices

Disclaimer

Website Policies

Site Feedback

Contact Us

Protecting and promoting the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin.