



Coulee COVID-19 Collaborative Update

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For More Information Contact: Maggie Smith, masmith@lacrossecounty.org

The Coulee COVID-19 Collaborative (a partnership between Gundersen Health System, Mayo Clinic Health System, La Crosse County and other stakeholders) continues to work together and offer recommendations regarding COVID-19 in La Crosse County. Using the Harvard Global Health Institute model as a guide for assessing the level of COVID-19, the metrics show:

Data for the week ending 10/25/2020:

Metrics 1 – 3

Metric 1	New case rate Case trend as an estimate from new deaths trend*	35.5 per 100,000/day 24.2 per 100,000/day	Concern Caution
Metric 2	New hospitalizations rate (7 day rolling average)	6.1 per 100,000/day	Caution
Metric 3	Hospitalization Care Capacity		Caution

Community, Public Health and Testing Metrics Metrics 4-9

Metric 4	Cases Interviewed	Concern
Metric 5	Identified contacts traced	Concern
Metric 6	Contacts reached 1-2 days	Concern
Metric 7*	Daily testing goal	Concern
Metric 8	Testing turnaround time	Caution
Metric 9	Positive test ratio	Concern

**Testing goal is difficult to determine during surge.*

**Metric 1 includes two data points which have always been tracked; the higher of the two data points affects the metric.*

Given the information from these metrics and the growing case rates in our community in La Crosse County, the Coulee COVID-19 Collaborative highly recommends the following to assure a safe and healthy community:

- **Stay home.**
 - If you leave your home, do it for the essentials – your job (unless you can work from home), groceries, medical appointments, the pharmacy, to vote... and nothing else.
 - Cancel travel and social gatherings.
 - Do not interact with people you do not live with.
 - Support local businesses but do it by ordering take-out for a meal or picking up items curbside.
 - Avoid businesses or locations that are not following recommendations on masks, physical distancing and capacity limits.
 - Make an informed choice for your family about Halloween. Begin to think about safer alternatives to upcoming traditional holiday gatherings.
- **Wear a mask.**
 - Your mask protects me, and my mask protects you.
- **Practice physical distancing – stay 6 feet apart.**

- **Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face.**
 - Use hand sanitizer if a sink is not available.
- **Get tested. Know your status.**
 - Call your health care provider or visit a community testing site.
 - At [community testing sites](#) anyone can be tested – symptoms or no.
 - If you have symptoms or are a contact of a positive, quarantine while you wait for your results.
- **Get your flu shot.**
 - The flu shot does not protect against COVID-19, but by protecting you from the flu, we keep the number of people needing hospitalizations due to flu down.
- **Be a leader in your circle.**
 - Talk to your friends and family about the importance of these safety precautions.
 - Have the courage to challenge misinformation and share helpful resources.

For Businesses, Public Buildings, and Venues

- Minimize mass gatherings in businesses, public buildings, and venues. Capacity should be limited to 25% of total capacity OR 50 people indoors (100 outdoors) whichever is less. Masks and physical distancing should be required.
- Venues should cancel or reschedule any large gatherings planned for the next 14 days.
- The Collaborative is in support of WI Department of Health Services Emergency Order #3 and the La Crosse County Health Department’s advisory limiting public gatherings to no more than 25% of a room or building’s total occupancy.

Help keep schools and businesses open by taking these actions to protect yourself and others.

Demographics of recent cases continue to show increases in varying age groups connected to social gatherings with non-household family members and friends. The average age of new cases has risen from 23.7 years to 40.6 years with increasing numbers of people hospitalized between ages 30 and 60. The average age of hospitalized patients has gone down. Currently, 41.7% of hospitalized patients are age 40-59. The number of new cases in this age group means additional hospitalizations in upcoming weeks are likely.

As cases continue to climb in our region, we are beginning to see an impact on health care systems here in La Crosse. Both Gundersen and Mayo locally continue to have the capacity to care for both COVID-19 patients and to provide clinic and hospital care for many types of illnesses and procedures but are beginning to see strains in hospital capacity. Additionally, staff in both health care and public health are strained. These are your friends and neighbors who are committed professionals, but burnout is a reality during COVID-19.

Additionally, we hope all in our community will vote in the upcoming election. If you are voting in person, be sure to practice physical distancing and wear a mask. Consider contacting your municipal clerk to learn about curbside voting procedures. If you have any symptoms or have been instructed to quarantine or isolate on voting day, be sure to contact your municipal clerk to learn what your options are.

Metrics and all recommendations available at www.couleecovid19.org

