

Marathon County Board of Health

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 7:45 AM

Meeting Location: Marathon County Courthouse
Assembly Room
500 Forest Street
Wausau, WI 54403

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public beginning at 7:45 AM. Marathon County requests that appropriate COVID-19 safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees. Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number. When you enter the telephone conference, put your phone on mute.

Dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 851 2896 1112

Password: 882227

Committee Members: John Robinson, Chair; Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair; Kue Her, Secretary; Sandi Cihlar; Dean Danner; Tiffany Lee; Corrie Norrbom

Marathon County Mission Statement: Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)

Marathon County Health Department Mission Statement: To advance a healthy Marathon County community by preventing disease, promoting health, and protecting the public from environmental hazards. (Last updated: 5-7-13)

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment Period (Limit to 15 Minutes)**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the September 14, 2021 Board of Health Meeting**
4. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution**
 - A. None
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action**
 - A. COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funding for Local and Tribal Health Departments
6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. Update on actions being taken to address human health hazards identified at the Northern Mobile Home Park
 - B. COVID Dashboard
 - C. Topics for Upcoming Board Training

D. Report from the Health & Human Services Committee meeting on policy issues impacting public health

7. Announcements

8. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items:

A. Confirm November 9, 2021 meeting date and determine agenda topics

9. Adjourn

FAXED TO: Daily Herald, City Pages,
Marshfield News, Mid-West Radio Group

Signed _____

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE

Date _____ Time _____

By _____

Date _____ Time _____

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

Marathon County Board of Health

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 7:45 AM

Meeting Location: Marathon County Courthouse
Assembly Room
500 Forest Street
Wausau, WI 54403
[Also via Zoom]

Present (in person): John Robinson, Sandy Cihlar

Present (via Zoom): Kue Her, Dean Danner, Tiffany Lee, Corrie Norrbom

MCHD Staff: Laura Scudiere, Amanda Ostrowski, Aaron Ruff, Hannah Schommer,
Kim Wieloch, Jonathan Schmunk, Kang Chu Yang, Laura Fischer, Jenna Flynn

Others via Zoom: Tim Buttke, Becky Turpin, Erin Wells, Jennifer Smith, Katie Dively

1. Call to Order

John Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:48 AM.

2. Public Comment Period (Limit to 15 Minutes)

No public comments were made.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the August 10, 2021 Board of Health Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2021 Board of Health meeting made by Kue Her. Second by Corrie Norrbom. Motion approved.

4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution

A. None

5. Policy Discussion and Possible Action

A. COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funding for Local and Tribal Health Departments

Laura Scudiere provided a review of three new COVID-related grants: American Recovery Plan Act grant funding, Immunization & Vaccine grant funds, and Public Health Crisis Response grant funding. She shared that the Health Department is now in its nineteenth month of COVID response, and without additional financial support, the services that they are required to provide per DHS 140 will continue to erode, as all programs within the Health Department are contributing to COVID response efforts. There was discussion about how this funding will affect relationships with community partners; Laura responded that this funding gives the Health Department the ability to approach COVID response as a long-term strategy by building infrastructure, and that hiring additional staff dedicated solely to COVID will allow other staff to be freed up and more responsive to partners. There was

additional discussion about the development of dashboards to measure outcomes of initiatives funded by these grants; DHS may include specific dashboard measurements in their grant requirements. John Robinson requested that dashboard development be addressed at a future meeting, as dashboards monitored by the Board of Health adds ownership of investments and priorities by its members.

Motion to accept funding made by Sandy Cihlar. Second by Dean Danner. Motion approved.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Introduction to Laura Scudiere, Health Officer

John Robinson formally welcomed Laura Scudiere as Marathon County's new Health Officer. He shared that Laura has served on the Board of Health in the past and in several high-profile roles related to health in the community. Laura Scudiere shared her background in public health indicated that her focus moving forward is rebuilding after COVID and development of strategies, not just response, to public health crises.

B. Update on COVID-19 pandemic response efforts

Laura Scudiere shared an overview of the COVID-19 Delta variant; it is more contagious and causes more serious adverse effects in the unvaccinated. Research has shown that vaccinated individuals who contract COVID spread the disease for a shorter period and less likely to have severe symptoms. We are seeing an increase in post-COVID health conditions, indicating that COVID has long-term effects. She encourages community members to check out the Health Department's COVID-19 dashboard measurements on website. Laura also noted that the Health Department is also tracking other respiratory issues, like RSV and influenza. She indicated that focus needs to be brought back to other health conditions, especially immunizations in children. There was discussion by the group about difficulties in reaching marginalized populations and strategies to overcome these barriers. Additional discussion followed concerning if the Health Department will have any responsibility for enforcement of vaccination mandates; this is not likely. John Robinson noted that law firms are doing research around this topic, and the Board should explore this in a future meeting once there is more clarity.

Laura shared the Department of Health Services (DHS) Guidelines for the Prevention, Investigation, and Control of COVID-19 Outbreaks in K-12 Schools in Wisconsin, which the health department has been using as guidance for schools in Marathon County. There was a discussion about the integration of mitigation efforts in area schools. Laura shared that the Health Department hopes to implement JotNotes as a way of quickly disseminating information to parents and others in the community when someone is notified as a close contact.

C. Update on actions being taken to address human health hazards identified at the Northern Mobile Home Park

Marathon County continues to work with the City of Schofield, Judicare, and NCCAP to mitigate the human health hazards identified at the mobile home park. On September 7, a judge ordered Sustainable Resources (the mobile home park owner) that residents have 60 days to move from the park. NCCAP and Judicare are assisting the residents.

- D. Report from the Health & Human Services Committee September 9 meeting on policy issues impacting public health

Tim Buttke reported that the HHS Committee approved acceptance of grant funds; the proposal now goes to Finance committee. The Committee also reviewed the cooperation agreement for a community development block grant and approved a resolution to make October Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

7. Announcements

None.

8. Policy Discussion and Possible Action (resume 8:30 AM)

- A. Determine “indicators” for the Community Health Priority Substance Misuse

Amanda facilitated a discussion with the group, with the goal to select the result for Mental Health Priority: what is the end condition of well-being that we want for Marathon County residents and their mental health. The group selected “All Marathon County residents meet their highest potential of mental health” as the desired result. Next steps will be for the Substance Misuse and Mental Health Indicators to move into Turn the Curve development.

Hannah Schommer shared information around depression in youth.

9. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items:

- A. Confirm October 12, 2021 meeting date and determine agenda topics
 - i. Update on Marathon County Start Right program evaluation

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Sandy Cihlar; second by Kue Her. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:49 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kue Her, Secretary
Kim Wieloch, Recorder

**Health Officer Notes
October 2021**

Policy Discussion and Possible Action

- A. We will review the operational changes to enhance infrastructure with the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funding for Local and Tribal Health Departments. Several grant-funded limited-term positions will be created to assist with the COVID-response while allowing staff to resume Chapter 140-related essential public health functions.

Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

- A. Update on actions being taken to address human health hazards identified at the Northern Mobile Home Park**

Dale Grosskurth, Program Director of Environmental Health and Safety, will provide an update on actions being taken to address human health hazards at the Northern Mobile Home Park.

- B. COVID Dashboard**

A draft dashboard has been created to review the COVID situational response for board members. Data will be reviewed.

- C. Topics for Upcoming Board Training**

Board of Health members will explore potential topics for an upcoming training.

Update on Staffing

Melissa Moore, Prevention Specialist, resigned from the department on September 14. Judy Burrows has returned from retirement on a part-time basis to assist with continuity of the AOD Partnership and to provide support and training once the new CHI Director has been onboarded. Recruitment continues for the CHI Director. The department is also in the process of hiring a Health Educator and a casual Vaccine and Testing Coordinator.

Announcements from the Health Officer

DHS has announced that Health Departments that received an abbreviated 140 review in 2020 will not have a review this year. Reviews will continue next year. 140 reviews are completed by DHS to determine if Health Departments are in line with the expectations of the Wi State Chapter 140 required services for the level of health department they have obtained. Marathon County Health Department is a Level III.

Marathon County Health Department

COVID Infrastructure Overview

Purpose: Provide an overview of the required infrastructure necessary for ongoing COVID-related public health activities in accordance with the approved COVID-19 funds provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Current Situation and Overview

The health department was awarded three grants related to increasing infrastructure to public health teams to continue with necessary COVID-related activities including disease investigation and contract tracing, while also conducting efforts as stipulated in Wisconsin's Administrative Code Chapter 140. 05. The grants are:

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services totaling \$1,037,000.
- COVID-19 Public Health Crisis Response—Public Health Workforce funded through CDC funding and distributed through the Department of Health Services totaling \$180,300.
- COVID-19: Immunization and Vaccines funded through Federal dollars as distributed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services totaling \$195,900.

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has and continues to require significant resources beyond available pre-pandemic Health Department resources. The Health Department is in its twentieth month of pandemic response, resulting in continual stress and interruption of health department programs and services. Current Wisconsin Administrative code requires a variety of specific public health activities. Existing staff have been pulled to provide COVID-related activities including, but not limited to:

- Disease investigation, which includes contract tracing and contact identification
- Contact notification
- Community Vaccine coordination and strategy
- Community Testing coordination and strategy
- Answering COVID questions from the community
- Testing and vaccine outreach
- School-related outreach, education, and coordination
- Administrative COVID-support including data reporting and mailings
- Management of contracted COVID staff
- Business-related outreach, education, and coordination
- Data management
- Vaccine clinics (internal)
- Vaccine clinics in collaboration with external partners

- Testing clinics in collaboration with external partners

Required public health activities, such as those listed for a Level III Health Department as listed in Chapter 140 of Wisconsin Administrative Code have been postponed or interrupted. These activities include:

- Surveillance and investigation of public health data
- Communicable disease control (including tuberculosis)
- Disease prevention
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Health promotion
- Human health hazard control
- Policy and planning
- Leadership and organizational competencies- establishing and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders of health within the community
- Public health nursing services
- Identifying and addressing priority health needs of the community
- Collect data to support public health needs of our community
- Community Health Improvement Plan
- Community Needs Assessment

Strategy

These grants provide infrastructure to provide COVID-related activities in addition to required public health activities for the next 3 years. Once the funding has been exhausted, the positions would be eliminated and the remaining duties of the COVID team will be absorbed into the existing communicable disease team. Additional funds may be offered by DHS, at which point, the team would be evaluated in relation to the level of response required.

Currently, health educators, public health nurses, sanitarians, family health managers, and other positions that have been funded by specific grant-required non-COVID activities have been repurposed to COVID work. Due to this, funded grant-specific activities like childhood immunizations, MCW Mental Health Coalition work, Maternal Child Health, tobacco prevention, licensure activities, Life Report development and support, and CHIPP planning have all been impacted.

With the ongoing support of COVID-specific staff members, public health staff can refocus their efforts on Chapter 140 required services and the necessary work in our community to prevent disease and promote health, in accordance with the intent of the grant funding.

By adding these positions, the benefits will be to:

1. Resume core health department functions in accordance with Chapter 140 required services
2. Develop a COVID-19 specific team with specialization in the areas of need (i.e. the PIO will be hired with communications experience)
3. These positions will help us better reach underserved/disproportionately impacted populations by providing more depth of staff
4. Provide a flexible, consistent COVID-19 response with stable resources.

Recommendation

The following staff would be added for a limited-time grant-funded position to the health department roster:

ROLE	FTE	OVERVIEW
COVID Manager	1.0 FTE	This position was hired as a contracted position to manage the contracted staff hired through Westphal related to our disease response. The position oversees the day-to-day operations of the COVID-related activities under the supervision of the Family Health & Communicable Disease Director. Hiring, rather than contracting for this position, provides significant cost savings, as we're paying over market to the staffing agency for this position. It also brings stability to this important position.
Information Specialist (PIO)	1.0 FTE	This position is necessary to handle the daily requests from the media, the generation of press releases, and social media. Currently, this position is being filled by a health educator who expends 1.0 FTE in web updates, data collection and reporting, Facebook coordination, and media coordination.
COVID Specialists	2.0 FTE	These individuals are trained to provide disease investigation and contact notification. They provide support to schools, and workplaces related to COVID mitigation. They also perform a variety of tasks in the state data base system including documentation, data management, audits, and case importing and assignments. These activities are currently being completed by contracted staff. Hiring this directly will provide the necessary ongoing infrastructure to ensure quality services as COVID becomes an ongoing feature in communicable disease response.
Fiscal COVID Specialist	1.0 FTE	COVID funding requires specialized reporting due to complex, in-depth documentation and audit requirements. In addition, this position will review all COVID-related expenditures to ensure compliance with grant parameters. These duties are currently being completed by the Operations Manager.
COVID Administrative Support	1.0 FTE	This position assists the COVID Specialists, COVID Operations Manager, and other staff with the COVID response. They perform a variety of tasks in the state data base system, including importing cases, creating of contact investigations, and usage reports. They communicate with schools and businesses to obtain data. Creation and mailing of isolation and quarantine letters and onboarding and off boarding of staff is also included in this role. Currently, these tasks are completed by a range of staff, both contracted and non-contracted.

		Centralizing and standardizing this function will provide stability and consistency in these tasks.
Vaccine and Immunization Coordinator	1.0 FTE	This position would replace the role exited by a promoted health educator and would be utilized to coordinate additional testing and vaccine events in our community, convene meetings around vaccine and testing strategy and coordinate with community partners on increasing access. This position would be focusing on outreach to disproportionately impacted populations and collaborate with community partners.

Projected costs – Marathon County will incur no additional costs, as the positions, benefits, supplies, and facility use will be contained within the grant funding. Once expended, positions will be eliminated.

Revenues – Expected revenues total \$1,413,900 (\$195,900 for Profile #155809 – Immunizations & Vaccines; \$180,300 Profile #155812 Public Health Workforce, and \$1,037,700 for Profile #155811, COVID American Recovery Plan Act). These were approved by the Board of Health and the Marathon County Board in September 2021.

Expenses – Preliminary estimated expenditures total \$1,313,900 (\$1,221,067 for Personnel; \$71,579 for contracted services, \$11,200 for computer equipment, and \$10,054 in estimated CCITC IT support costs).

Other expenses - \$100,000 remaining for overhead and indirect (7% of revenues); to be used for supervision costs, potential rent expenditures, office furniture for new positions, data tracking software or other technology solutions.

Assumptions made:

- Estimated starting wage for all positions is at or near the control point.
- Benefit costs for all benefit-eligible positions are budgeted at 2022 estimated family rates when applicable.
- Benefit calculations include the employer’s portion of health insurance, dental insurance, FICA, unemployment insurance, WRS, worker’s compensation insurance, disability insurance, and Post-Employment Health Plan employer contributions. The cost of life insurance was determined to be immaterial and thus not included.
- Personnel expenses are budgeted to increase 3.3% every year after the first full year to account for merit increases and increases in benefit costs.
- CCITC support costs are budgeted to increase 3% each year.
- One-time fixed costs include \$1,600 per position for computer equipment (laptop, docking station, keyboard, two monitors, mouse, and headset).
- COVID will continue to need an ongoing public health attention and response for at least two more years

Implementation milestones

- Staff positions are hired

- Staff are evaluated in routine performance appraisal process
- Board reviews COVID dashboard in monthly board packet
- 140-required services are maintained or resumed
- Grant deliverables (ex: MCH, MCW, immunization, etc.) are achieved
- Quarterly reports on use of funding provided on time to Wisconsin DHS



Marathon County COVID-19 Dashboard

View online: <https://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/HealthDepartment/COVID19/Dashboard.aspx>

Marathon County COVID-19 Case Data

This data is compiled by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Case data will be updated daily, Monday through Friday. Weekend data will be added on Monday. To see more detailed data, hover over the graphic. For weekend numbers, visit

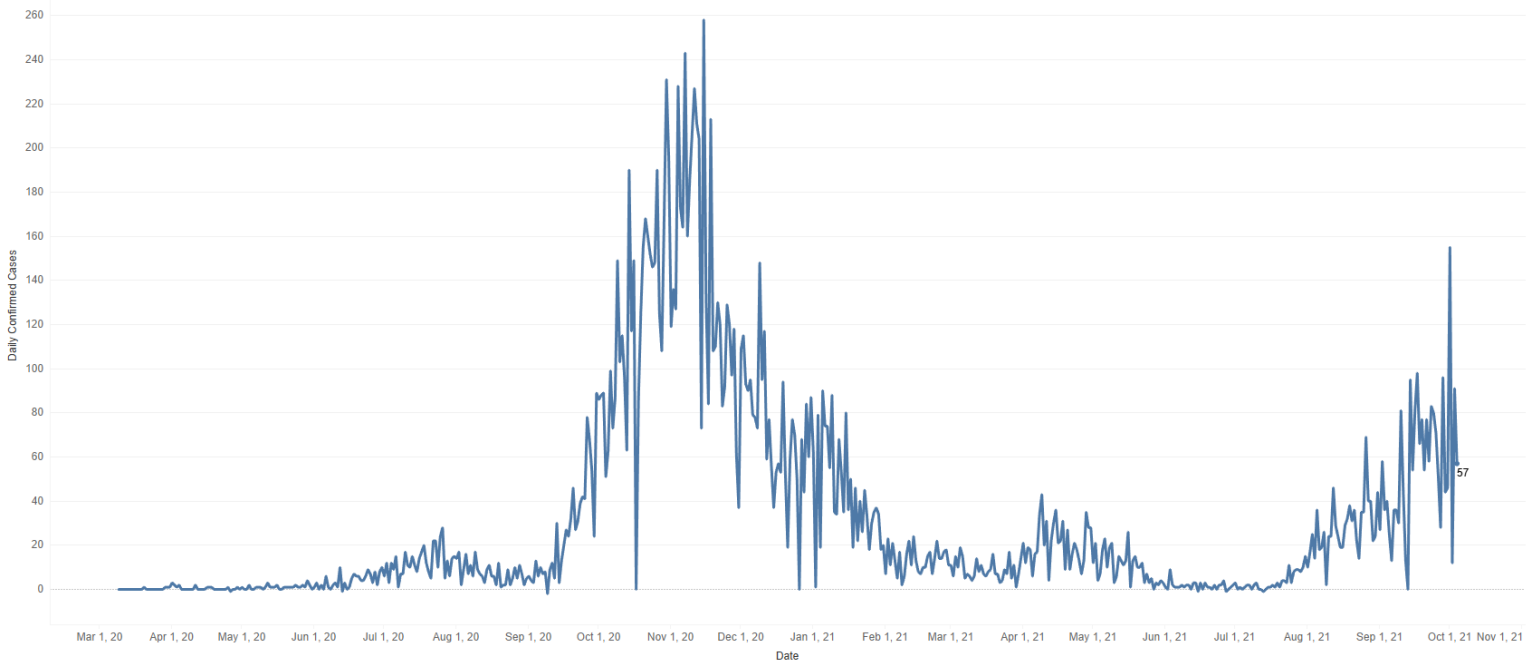
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/county.htm> Last updated: 10/4/2021

New Daily Confirmed Cases	57	7-Day Average (Confirmed & Probable)	68
Current Active Cases	1,479	Percent Active	8.3%
Total Confirmed Cases	17,958	Percent Recovered	90.1%
Recovered	15,998	Ever Hospitalized	936
Confirmed Deaths	214	Percent Ever Hospitalized	5.3%



Daily New Confirmed Cases

The data is compiled by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). Last updated: 10/4/2021





Marathon County COVID-19 Dashboard

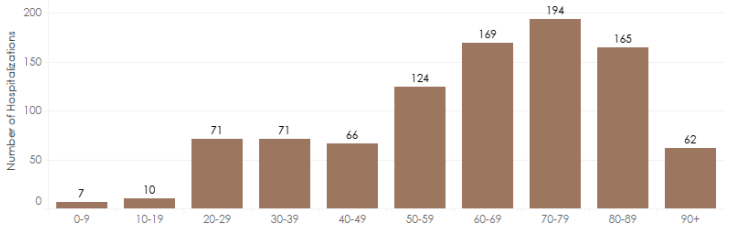
COVID-19 Hospitalizations

This data is compiled by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services weekly. To see more detailed data, hover over the graphic. Last updated: 10/4/2021

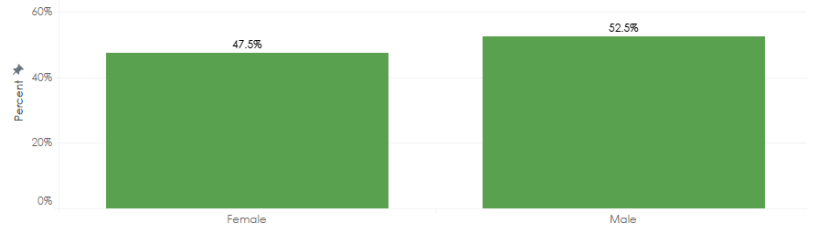
New Weekly Hospitalizations



Hospitalizations by Age



Hospitalizations by Gender

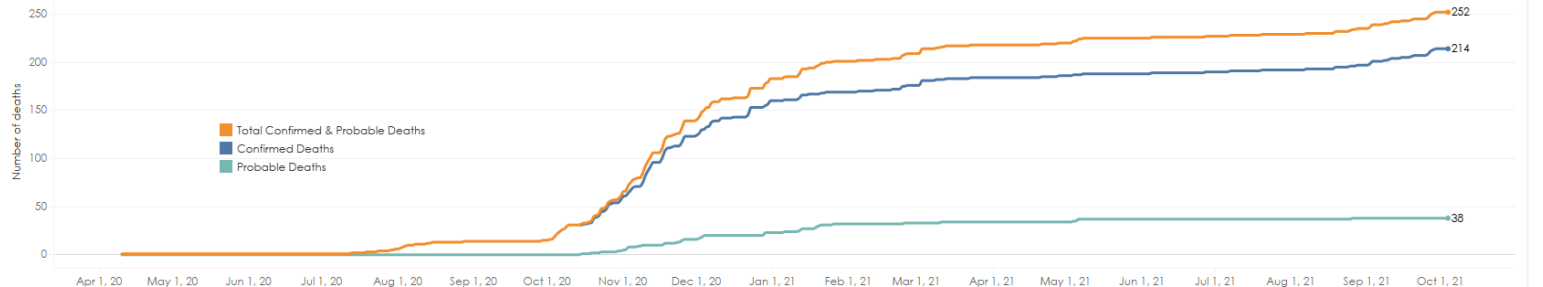


COVID-19 Deaths

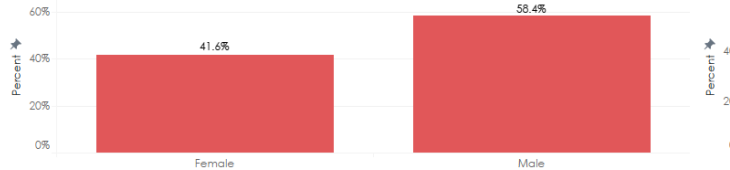
This data is compiled by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Death data will be updated weekly. To see more detailed data, hover over the graphic. Last updated: 10/4/2021

Confirmed and Probable Deaths

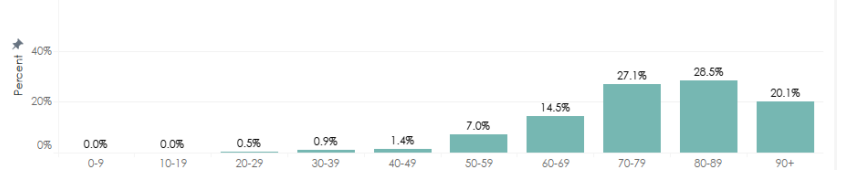
Deaths among probable cases are those that meet one of the following criteria:
 - A probable case of COVID-19 is reported to have died from causes related to COVID-19.
 - A death certificate that lists COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 as an underlying cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death is reported to DHS but WEDSS has no record of confirmatory laboratory evidence for SARS-CoV-2.



Deaths by Gender



Deaths by Age

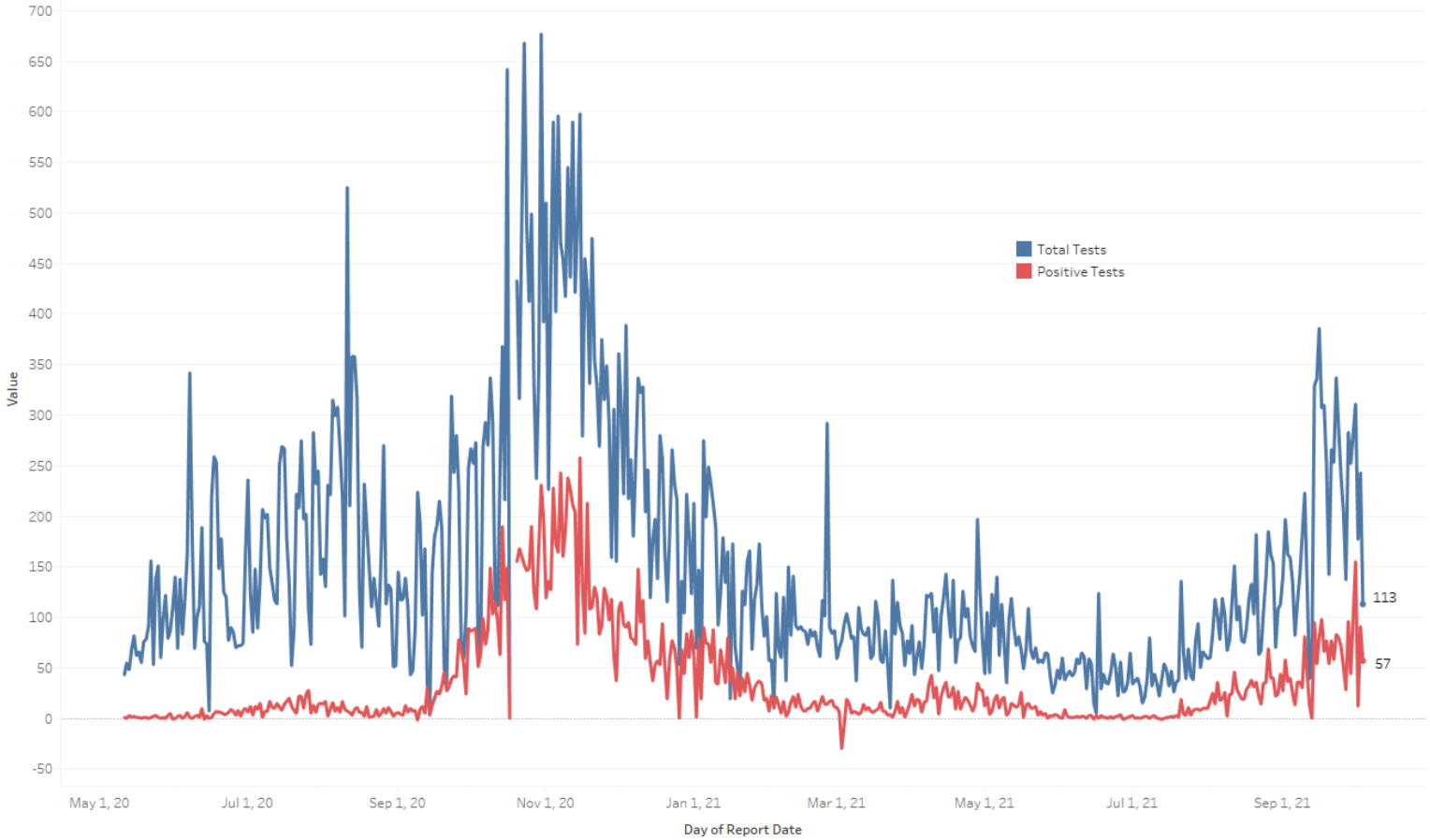




Marathon County COVID-19 Dashboard

Total Daily COVID-19 Tests

The graphs show the daily totals for COVID-19 tests in Marathon County residents. Last updated: 10/4/2021





Marathon County COVID-19 Dashboard

COVID-19 Vaccines for Wisconsin residents

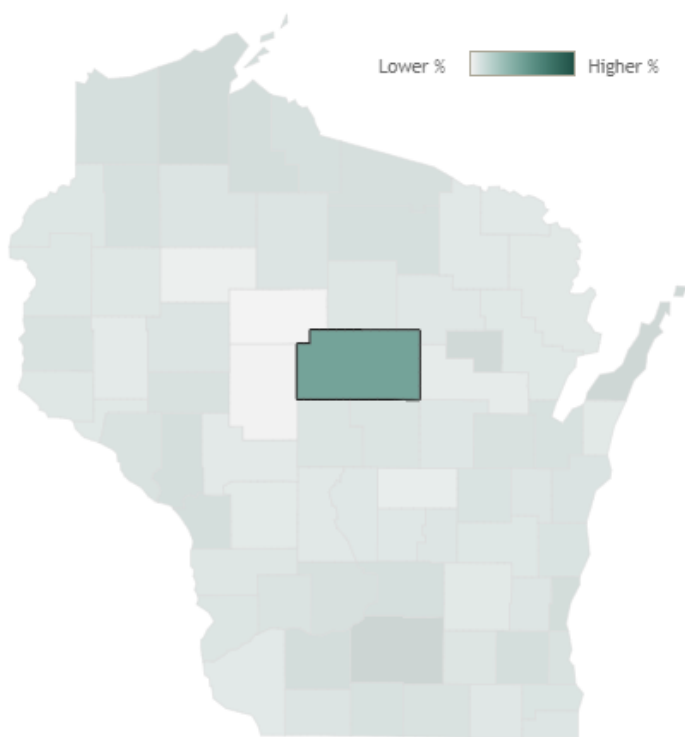
Updated: 10/1/2021

HERC region data

- Total population who have received at least one dose
- Total population who have completed the series
- Adults (18+) who have received at least one dose
- Adults (18+) who have completed series

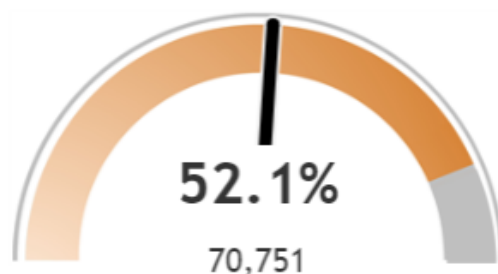
Percent of Wisconsin residents who have received at least one dose by county

Click a county to filter data



Percent of Marathon County residents who have received at least one dose

The **orange** represents the population for whom the vaccine is authorized. The **gray** indicates the population under 12 years of age for whom the vaccines are not authorized.



Age

12-15	40.0%
16-17	46.6%
18-24	49.0%
25-34	49.1%
35-44	56.5%
45-54	59.2%
55-64	68.1%
65+	81.2%

Race

American Indian	47.6%
Asian	55.2%
Black	30.7%
White	48.0%

*5.8% of records reported a race of "Other".

*1.7% of records reported an unknown race

Sex

Female	55.9%
Male	48.3%

Ethnicity

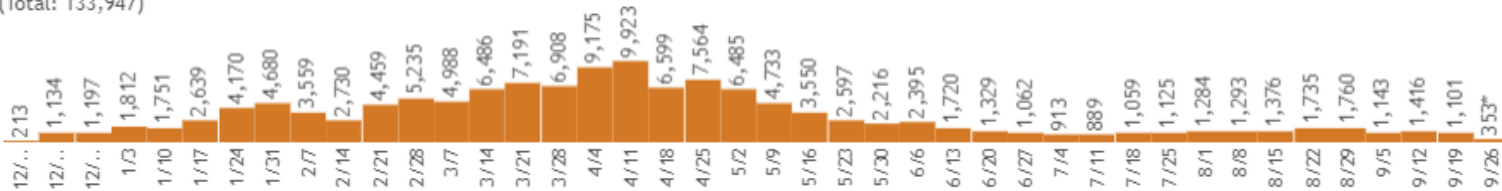
Hispanic	41.9%
Non-Hispanic	51.4%

*0.1% of records were reported without sex.

*2.1% of records were reported without ethnicity.

[View more data on racial and ethnic disparities in Wisconsin](#)

Vaccine doses for Marathon County residents by week
(Total: 133,947)



*Current week may be incomplete.