

# Badger Bounce Back



## FROM SAFER AT HOME TO THE BADGER BOUNCE BACK

When COVID-19 hit Wisconsin, it started to spread very rapidly. This is what happens when a very infectious, brand-new virus enters a community. No one is safe because no one is immune. That means a lot of people can get sick very quickly. It also means hospitals can be overrun with very sick patients. We saw this happen in Wuhan, in Italy and in New York City. Our Safer at Home order was enacted to protect Wisconsin from this situation. We all stayed home, so the virus couldn't spread easily, and our hospitals have been able to safely care for sick people. According to the model created by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Wisconsin was projected to have between 440 and 1,500 deaths from the 22,000 COVID-19 infections projected by April 8th. Over the first three weeks of Safer at Home, our data shows we have saved at least 300 lives, and perhaps as many as 1,400 lives. We have helped flatten the curve, which has resulted in fewer cases and hospitalizations, and we've saved lives, together.

Safer at Home has saved lives, protected healthcare workers and critical employees, and prevented our hospitals from being overrun, but we know that it is not a workable solution for our economy or our way of life in the long-term. We are fighting an unprecedented global pandemic and we are working to open Wisconsin as soon as we can and in the safest way possible. The challenge is that all of us who have remained safe at home can still become ill if we move too quickly or act without an achievable plan in place. In order to preserve the progress we made during Safer at Home, we've developed a plan to safely reopen Wisconsin. Our plan is the Badger Bounce Back. Here's what it looks like:

- We turn the dial to open businesses and society in phases.
- Decisions to move from phase to phase are guided by data—Wisconsin's Gating Criteria and Core Responsibilities.
- In order to turn the dial on Safer at Home and supercharge the Badger Bounce Back, we need to:
  - Increase lab capacity and testing
  - Increase contact tracing, including support for isolation and quarantine
  - Track the spread of COVID-19
  - Increase health care capacity
  - Procure more personal protective equipment
- Individuals and businesses agree to practice good hygiene, physical distancing and other best practices.

Our initial response to COVID-19 has been to keep all Wisconsinites safer at home to prevent spreading this disease. We are eager to move to the next phase but do not yet meet the thresholds for testing, contact tracing, health care worker infection rates, personal protective equipment, and others that public health experts in Wisconsin and within the federal government have determined are necessary.

These guidelines draw from numerous sources including Guidelines for Opening Up America Again (White House, April 16, 2020); COVID-19 Playbook (Resolve to Save Lives, April 1, 2020); National Coronavirus Response: A Roadmap to Reopening (American Enterprise Institute, March 29, 2020); and COVID-19 Economic Recovery: Roadmap for a Smart Re-start of the Wisconsin Economy (Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, April, 2020).



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Once we reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and meet the Wisconsin Gating Criteria and Core Responsibilities, we can begin to allow people to interact, and more importantly get Wisconsinites back to work. But once we have more flexibility to interact more and get back to work, we will need to aggressively test people for COVID-19, properly isolate people who test positive and quarantine their close contacts. The shift we are making is from “boxing in” all the people to “boxing in” the virus. Until we have a vaccine that prevents this virus, we will need to take these steps to prevent future outbreaks, monitor for resurgence of the virus and take appropriate steps if we see increases in virus transmission.

## WISCONSIN’S GATING CRITERIA

**SYMPTOMS:** Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) reported within a 14-day period AND downward trajectory of COVID-19-like syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period

**CASES:** Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period

**HOSPITALS:** Treat all patients without crisis care AND Robust testing programs in place for at-risk healthcare workers, with decreasing numbers of infected healthcare workers

These metrics and progress on Core Responsibilities will be evaluated regularly and guide decisions about when Wisconsin is ready to move from phase to phase. They are based on the Federal Gating Criteria and Core State Preparedness Responsibilities found in *Guidelines for Opening up America Again* that was issued by the White House on April 16, 2020. These metrics will be applied on a statewide basis as this highly infectious virus knows no county boundaries and can easily spread from regions with high prevalence to regions with low prevalence.

## CORE STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

### TEST, TRACE, & TRACK:

**Testing:** Every Wisconsin resident who has symptoms of COVID-19 can get a lab test. Results will be reported to the patient and state or local public health within 48 hours of collection. To achieve this, our goal is 85,000 tests/week or approximately 12,000 tests/day.

To achieve this goal, we will focus on the following:

1. Within the healthcare systems across the state, all barriers to testing will be addressed, including:
  - a. Providers are aware of guidance and order tests.
  - b. All clinics have adequate specimen collection supplies (e.g. NP swabs and viral media transport) and PPE to conduct tests.
  - c. All labs have supplies to perform tests.
  - d. All tests are reported to patient and public health.
2. In addition to increasing capacity through the health care system, mobile/temporary testing sites are stood up to address the most pressing needs:
  - a. Community locations with known intense community spread (e.g., particular zip codes in Milwaukee).
  - b. Outbreaks in congregate settings (e.g., long term care, correctional facilities).
  - c. Outbreaks in business settings.



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**Tracing:** Testing without contact tracing will not result in controlling the spread of the virus. In order to reopen Wisconsin, we need to be sure that everyone who can transmit the virus (whether because they are infected or exposed) understands their responsibility to stay home. We will increase the state's contact tracing efforts by hiring 1,000 additional staff to make sure everyone is contacted and has what they need to safely isolate and quarantine.

To achieve this goal, we will focus on the following:

1. A case interview and contact tracing protocol to standardize processes for training and implementation across the state will be established.
2. Technology options for data management and client communication and tracing will be explored and deployed.
3. A system for contact tracing will be adopted that considers and balances the assets of local health departments and the state.
4. Contact tracing workforce will be hired, trained and deployed via direct hires or through contracts with other agencies.
5. Isolation and quarantine capacity will be identified in each county across the state.

**Tracking:** Building on systems used to track influenza, we will track the spread of the disease and report on the Wisconsin Gating Criteria and other related metrics to keep everyone informed about how we are doing.

To achieve this goal, we will focus on the following:

1. Data to inform these metrics will be collected and translated into a regularly-updated public dashboard.
2. Communication assets will be developed and deployed to engage the public and keep them informed of these metrics.
3. Evaluation questions about the pandemic will be identified, prioritized, and studied to further understand the pandemic.

## **OTHER STATE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- ✓ We will procure personal protective equipment and other necessary supplies to support health care and public safety agencies.
- ✓ While PPE is in short supply, we will acquire systems for decontaminating N95 masks for healthcare providers in the state who request this service.
- ✓ We will support the surge capacity of our healthcare system.
- ✓ We will work with employers to guide them in steps to take, including physical distancing and cleaning practices to create safe workplaces.
- ✓ We will work with long-term care facilities to protect the health and safety of our most vulnerable neighbors.
- ✓ We will advise residents regarding protocols for physical distancing, hygiene practices, and cloth face coverings.
- ✓ We will monitor conditions and immediately take steps to respond to any COVID-19 disease resurgence or outbreaks by restarting a phase or returning to an earlier phase, depending on severity.



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## INDIVIDUAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL PHASES

### CONTINUE TO PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

- ✓ Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- ✓ Avoid touching your face.
- ✓ Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- ✓ Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- ✓ Strongly consider using cloth face coverings while in public, and particularly when using mass transit.

### PEOPLE WHO FEEL SICK MUST STAY AT HOME

- ✓ Do NOT go to work, school, or any other public place.
- ✓ Contact and follow the advice of your medical provider.

## EMPLOYER GUIDELINES FOR ALL PHASES

- ✓ All employers are encouraged to use federal, state, and local regulations and guidance, informed by industry best practices and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, to develop and implement appropriate policies regarding:
  - ✓ Physical distancing and protective equipment
  - ✓ Temperature checks and symptom screening
  - ✓ Testing, isolating, and contact tracing
  - ✓ Sanitation
  - ✓ Use and disinfection of common and high-traffic areas
  - ✓ Business travel
  - ✓ Other best practices

Do NOT allow symptomatic people to work. Send them home if they arrive at work and do not allow them to return until cleared by a medical provider.

Working with local public health staff, develop and implement policies and procedures for workforce contact tracing following an employee COVID-19 positive test result.



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## OVERVIEW OF THREE PHASES OF THE BADGER BOUNCE BACK

Action	Safer At Home	PHASE ONE When all Gating Criteria and Core Responsibilities are met	PHASE TWO Based on re-evaluation of Criteria and Core Responsibilities	PHASE THREE Based on re-evaluation of Criteria and Core Responsibilities
Wash hands often	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cover coughs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Don't go out if ill	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Face mask if ill person goes out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Surface and object cleaning	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Isolation of positive cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quarantine of contacts of positive cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Physical distancing to 6 feet when possible	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Stop unnecessary visits to nursing homes, congregate facilities, and hospitals	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (until a vaccine is available)
Allow gatherings including religious (above 10, 50 people)	No, but allow religious gatherings below 10.	Yes—10 people maximum	Yes—50 people maximum	Yes—no maximum



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## OVERVIEW OF THREE PHASES OF THE BADGER BOUNCE BACK (continued)

Action	Safer At Home	PHASE ONE When all Gating Criteria and Core Responsibilities are met	PHASE TWO Based on re-evaluation of Criteria and Core Responsibilities	PHASE THREE Based on re-evaluation of Criteria and Core Responsibilities
Open restaurants	No, but allow take-out, delivery, and curbside food take-out.	Yes with best practices*	Yes	Yes
Open bars	No, but allow take-out and delivery.	No, but allow take-out and delivery.	Yes with best practices*	Yes
Open essential businesses	Yes	Yes, with retail restrictions removed	Yes	Yes
Open non-essential businesses	Minimum Basic Operations only	Partial reopening*	Yes with best practices*	Yes
Open post-secondary education institutions	No	No	Consider reopening	Yes
Open K-12 schools	No	Yes*	Yes*	Yes
Open daycares	Yes, but limits on capacity.	Yes*	Yes*	Yes
Voluntary quarantine of travelers from high-prevalence areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*People over age 60, including employees and those who are medically vulnerable, should continue to shelter in place. Online education/remote work encouraged wherever possible.

Based on recommendations from Resolve to Save Lives, When and How to Reopen After COVID-19 and Guidelines for Opening up America Again.

