



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

Emergency Declaration based on COVID-19

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin continues to make significant progress in the fight against COVID-19, with the State frequently leading the Nation in the percentage of vaccine doses used;

WHEREAS, as of April 7, 1,987,677 Wisconsinites have received their first dose of vaccine (34.1% of the total population) and 1,227,807 have completed their vaccine series (21.1% of the total population);

WHEREAS, while the State of Wisconsin is one of the leaders in administering vaccines in the Nation, there are new, highly contagious variants that are rapidly spreading throughout the United States and the State of Wisconsin that threaten the significant progress we have made against COVID-19;

WHEREAS, as of April 7, 2021, there are 139 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant, 8 cases of the B.1.351 variant, and 2 cases of the P.1 variant detected in Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, several states bordering Wisconsin have a significantly larger number of cases of the variants, including more than 1,600 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant in Michigan and more than 900 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant in Minnesota;

WHEREAS, these new variants spread more easily and quickly than other variants of the virus;

WHEREAS, the threat posed by these variants is compounded by high levels of transmission that have persisted throughout the state;

WHEREAS, after weeks of declining numbers of new cases, Wisconsin is now experiencing a rise in cases, increasing from a seven-day average of 388 cases per day on March 10 to 656 cases per day on April 7, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the presence of these more contagious variants threatens to undermine the progress we have made against COVID-19 by rapidly increasing the number of COVID-19 cases in Wisconsin and increasing pressure on our health care system before we have reached adequate levels of community immunity through vaccination.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KAREN TIMBERLAKE, the Secretary-designee of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, based on my authority under Sections 15.19 and 252.02(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby direct the department to continue taking all necessary actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

1. Leading the State's COVID-19 vaccination efforts, including facilitating cooperation between local health officers, state agencies, and the Federal Emergency Management Administration;
2. Procuring and providing COVID-19 testing to communities throughout Wisconsin;
3. Assisting local health officers with contact tracing; and
4. Advising the public on best practices related to stopping the spread of COVID-19.
5. Conducting ongoing disease surveillance to inform the response.

Dated April 08, 2021



Karen Timberlake
Secretary-designee