



Fond du Lac County Health Department

City/County Government Center
160 S. Macy St., Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Phone: 920-929-3085 | Fax: 920-929-3102 | www.fdlco.wi.gov



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Fond du Lac County
Health Department**

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19

What is the Tier testing approach?

Wisconsin is prioritizing testing for COVID-19 and below is the criteria by Tier. Tier 1 is the top priority for testing. Tests that meet clinical criteria for Tier 1 and 2 below will be sent to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene and may have results generally within 48 hours. Tests that meet clinical criteria for Tier 3 and 4 below will be sent to a different lab, resulting in longer wait times (6-7 days or more). At this time it is not recommended to test patients without symptoms and patients with mild upper respiratory symptoms only who are not health care workers.

Tier 1 is for individuals who:

- Are critically ill and receiving ICU level care with unexplained viral pneumonia or respiratory failure.

OR

- Are hospitalized (non-ICU) with fever or signs and symptoms of lower respiratory tract illness (cough, shortness of breath) and either known exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case or travel to an area with sustained community transmission.

Tier 2 is for individuals who:

- Are hospitalized (non-ICU) with unexplained fever and signs and symptoms of lower respiratory tract illness.

OR

- Are health care workers with unexplained fever and signs and symptoms of a lower respiratory illness, regardless of hospitalization.

Tier 3 is for individuals who:

- Are seen in outpatient settings and meet criteria for influenza testing. This includes individuals with co-morbid conditions including diabetes, COPD, congestive heart failure, age >50, immunocompromised host among others.

OR

- Are health care workers with mild upper respiratory symptoms (rhinorrhea, congestion, sore throat) without fever.

Tier 4 is for individuals who:

- Other patients, as directed by public health or infection control authorities (e.g. community surveillance or public health investigations)

For more information visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/providers.htm>

How do patients obtain their results?

The physician who ordered the test, that physician or the physician's assistant, would call you specifically to let you know the result of the test. This is regardless of what lab the specimen where sent to based on the tier testing approach. After the patient knows about their positive results, the local health department will then reach out to that individual to work through contact tracing and to implement isolation at home.

What is considered close contact?

Close contact is defined as being within approximately 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time (10 minutes or more) or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on). Close contacts can be identified through the contact tracing interview of an individual who is a known COVID-19 case.

How long is isolation?

Isolation is for people who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, shortness of breath, and cough, and have had contact with someone who is a known to have COVID-19. The duration of isolation would be the start of your symptoms, add 7 days and be fever free for 72hrs (without using fever-reducing drugs).

How long is quarantine?

Quarantine is for someone who does not currently have any symptom and are going to monitor himself or herself to see if they develop. For COVID-19, the period of quarantine is 14 days from the last date of exposure, because 14 days is the longest incubation period seen for similar coronaviruses.

What does community spread mean?

Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected. As of 3/27 there is no indication of community spread in Fond du Lac County at this time.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/transmission.html>



What is social distancing and why is it important?

Social distancing means minimizing contact with people and keeping a distance of at least 6 feet between you and others. On a larger scale, examples of practicing social distancing include limiting gatherings of 10 people or more, and canceling events and closing buildings where groups of 10 or more would gather. By practicing preventative measures, we decrease the spread of the virus.

What does it mean to “flatten the curve”?

It means we must minimize the number of people who get COVID-19 at the same time. The larger the number of people who have the disease at any one same time, the greater the chance people may experience severe illness and require hospitalization at that time overwhelming the healthcare system.

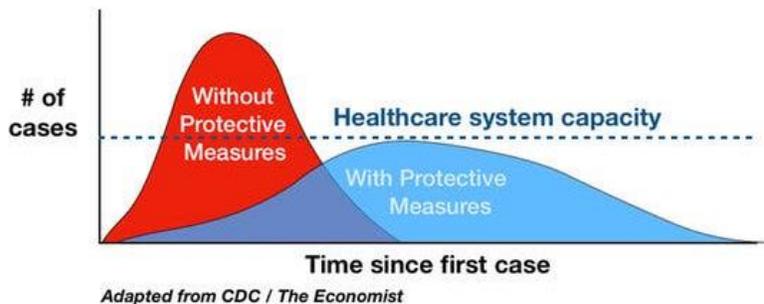


Image Retrieved from The New York Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/11/science/coronavirus-curve-mitigation-infection.html>

How long can the COVID-19 virus stay on surfaces?

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

According to the World Health Organization it is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 survives on surfaces, but it seems to behave like other coronaviruses. Studies suggest that coronaviruses (including preliminary information on the COVID-19 virus) may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions (e.g. type of surface, temperature or humidity of the environment).

The best practice would be to wash your hands after touching surfaces, especially those that are high-touch such as door knobs, light switches, and gas pumps, and to disinfect surfaces often. It is especially important to wash your hands before and after you eat.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>