FOND DU LAC COUNTY

SAFE RESTART GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

FOND DU LAC COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Please set an appointment before dropping by.
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Introduction

This document provides recommendations to Fond du lac County community members and local businesses to help keep people safe as the community opens up. Fond du Lac County uses the federal Guidelines for Opening Up America Again plan to build the metrics and phases in this plan that will slowly and cautiously reopen businesses and activities in our communities to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Background

In Wisconsin, Governor Tony Evers declared a public health emergency on March 12, 2020 to respond to and contain COVID-19 in Wisconsin. At a national level, President Donald Trump proclaimed a National Emergency concerning COVID-19 on March 13, 2020.

The prior Wisconsin Safer at Home Order worked to flatten the curve of infections of COVID-19 in Wisconsin, and Wisconsin saw meaningful gains from this proactive step. As of May 14, 2020 there have been over 11,000 people in the state diagnosed with COVID-19 and 4% of those illnesses resulted in loss of life. Since March 11, 2020 Fond du Lac County has had over 275 residents diagnosed with COVID-19. 6 of those residents have died from the virus. This is a crucial time for Fond du Lac County to continue to be vigilant and take actions that will halt further spread of the disease. This requires all Fond du Lac County residents and business owners take responsibility, to work together and to support best practices.

When the Safer at Home Order was overturned by the Supreme Court, Fond du Lac County continued to follow the Wisconsin Badger Bounce Back Plan. However, having a county specific restart plan allows for local residents to better understand where exactly the county stands when it comes to reopening. This will be accomplished by monitoring key criteria to determine the burden of COVID-19 in Fond du Lac County. The plan provides the ability to have a fluid movement between phases.

Moving Through the Phases

A measured, phased-in approach that utilizes data-driven benchmark criteria and aligns with federal and state metrics has been developed to guide Fond du Lac County decision making.

Effective Monday, June 22, 2020 Fond du Lac County will begin Phase One of the County's Safe Restart. The specifics of each phase are detailed below. Guidance on how Fond du Lac County will determine movement through the phases is also included. The guidelines and information contained within this plan are subject to change based on the spread of disease within Fond du Lac County and will be superseded by any local, state or federal level legislation passed to curb the spread of COVID-19.

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Reviewing Phase Specifics

Phase 1

- Businesses that choose to open may do so using the general best practice guidelines from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and any sector specific recommendations that apply to the work being done. If your sector is not included the CDC has additional resources for sectors/organizations to reference.
- Limit capacity within non-essential businesses, bars, restaurants and organizations to 25%. Encourage masking for both staff and consumers.
- Events held outdoors should allow for all people to maintain 6 feet physical distance (36 square feet per person) from others.
- People age 65 or older and those who are medically vulnerable should continue to limit travel and remain at home as much as possible.
- Support adult online education and remote work options as able, such as virtual meetings and conferences. This excludes K-12 schools and institutes of higher education.
- Encourage curbside pick-up to reduce in-store traffic and long lines.
- If community members choose to gather socially, private indoor social gatherings should be limited to 10 people or less with physical distancing.

Phase 2

- Continue to follow WEDC and CDC Best Practice Guidelines.
- Limit capacity within non-essential businesses, bars, restaurants and organizations to 50%. Encourage masking for both staff and consumers.
- People age 65 or older and those who are medically vulnerable should continue to limit travel and remain at home as much as possible.
- Events held outdoors should allow for all people to maintain 6 feet physical distance 36 square feet per person) from others.
- Support adult online education, such as virtual meetings and conferences, and remote work options as able. This excludes K-12 schools and institutes of higher education.
- If community members choose to gather socially, private indoor social gatherings should be limited to 50 people or less with physical distancing.

Phase 3

- Continue to follow WEDC and CDC Best Practice Guidelines.
- Limit capacity within non-essential businesses, bars, restaurants and organizations to 75%. Encourage masking for both staff and consumers.
- Events held outdoors should allow for all people to maintain 6 feet physical distance (36 square feet per person) from others.
- Maintain current CDC and DHS mitigation strategies until those strategies are lifted.
- If community members choose to gather socially, private indoor social gatherings should be limited to 250 people or less with physical distancing.

Actions to Occur Through All Phases

Community Member Actions

- Avoid going to places where safety measures are not in place.
- Practice good hand 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, particularly when using mass transit.
- If you are sick, stay home - **Do NOT** go to work, school, or any other public place and follow the advice of your medical provider.
- Know where to find local information on COVID-19.
- Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if symptomatic.
- Create a household plan of action in case of illness in the household or disruption of daily activities due to COVID-19.
- Follow public health quarantine/isolation orders when ill or when you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Business and Organization Actions

- When businesses choose to open, they should implement the WEDC General Guidelines to protect staff and consumers.
- The WEDC issued guidance for businesses by sector, businesses should review and follow sector specific guidance that applies to the work being done, if your sector is not included, the CDC has additional resources for sectors.
- **Do NOT** allow symptomatic people to work. Send them home if they arrive at work. Follow CDC guidelines related to return to work.
- Monitoring for symptoms, temperature checks and exposure in staff through an active monitoring program that is designed to quickly identify and remove exposure risks from the workplace.
- Work with local public health staff to develop and implement policies and procedures for workforce contact tracing following an employee COVID-19 positive test result.
- Train employees on COVID-19 Health and Safety measures.
- Develop sick leave policies that facilitate an environment in which ill or exposed individuals will actually stay home, thereby decreasing risk to the workplace.
- Protect the health and safety of customers by:
  - Setting and implementing aggressive infection control policies, such as frequent cleaning of all high-touch surfaces and preventing large congregations of people in close quarters.
  - Advising the public about recommendations to continue social distancing and to utilize cloth face coverings.
- Message to management, staff, and customers the importance of following prevention measures to prevent future waves that could shut down businesses again.

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Criteria for Phases

A key component of the Fond du Lac County Safe Restart plan is the ability to monitor key criteria to determine the burden of COVID-19 in Fond du Lac County and to assist health officials in determining when Fond du Lac County is ready to move to the next phase. The Benchmark Criteria outlined in the Safe Restart Plan aligns with the federal Guidelines for Opening up America Again.

Benchmark for Criteria

Benchmark Criteria will be monitored daily. If thresholds are maintained, the Fond du Lac County Public Health (FCHD) will provide guidance to the community regarding moving to the next phase. Threshold statuses indicated by color are assessed every seven days and may prompt change. Movement between phases potentially may occur every 14 days. FCHD changes threshold colors every seven days. FCHD will use a combination of state and local level data while considering guidance from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services related to restart of activities. The status of the benchmark criteria has been removed from this document. To see the most current status please visit Fond du Lac County COVID-19 Page. The following measures serve as the Benchmark Criteria:

Benchmark Criteria Status Report

The Benchmark Criteria Status Report Scorecard will be updated every Monday at 2pm on the Fond du Lac County COVID-19 Page.

	Metric	Thresholds		
Cases	Downward trajectory of positive cases of COVID-19 in Fond du Lac County as a percentage of total tests	**Trajectory of positive cases as percentage** County level data		
		Negative trajectory for 14 days, or % positive <5	Negative trajectory for 7 days or 5- 10% positive	Does not meet green/yellow criteria or 10%+ positive
		Positive Tests as % of All Tests Rolling average over last 7 days, now including multiple test results per person. Prior to Feb. 15 2021, we reported test results by person, counting people only once - either as a positive or negative case.		
		<5% positive	5-10% positive	10%+ positive
Testing	Testing availability for all residents with COVID-19-like symptoms, with priority toward vulnerable populations	**Health Systems Report of testing capacity**		
		100% of Systems are able to test anyone with symptoms	>50% of Systems able to test critical infrastructure and other priority groups	Does not meet green/yellow criteria

Benchmark Criteria Status Report Continued…

Care	Fond du Lac County Hospitals have ability to treat all patients requiring hospitalization without resorting to crisis standards	**% of FCH indicating they are NOT in crisis care**		
		100%	50%	0%
		% of FCH beds utilized for COVID-19+ patients (# of Hospitalized COVID-19 Positive Patients) / (Total ICU Bed Usage + Total Floor Bed Usage)		
		<10% of patients are COVID-19+	10-20% of patients are COVID-19+	20% of patients are COVID-19+
PPE	Adequate PPE available to health care personnel	**PPE for Hospital** (Measure of PPE for Fond du Lac County hospital systems; PPE measured includes N95 masks, gloves, gowns, sanitizer)		
		29+ days of all PPE supply for hospital systems	8-28 days of all PPE supply for hospital systems	0-7 days of all PPE supply for hospital systems
TRACING	Every resident who tests positive for COVID-19 is interviewed within 24 hours of test results, contacts to COVID-19 positive individuals are interviewed within 48 hours of test results	**Interview within 24 hrs.** (% of all positive cases interviewed within 24 hours of test result)		
		100% of cases interviewed within 24 hr.	>50% of cases interviewed within 24 hr.	<50% of cases interviewed within 24 hr.
		Contacts within 48 hrs. (% of all tracing contacts that were interviewed within 48 hours of test result)		
		100% of contacts interviewed within 48 hr.	>50% of contacts interviewed within 48 hr.	<50% of contacts interviewed within 48 hr.

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Benchmark Criteria Phase Evaluation Plan

Movement Between Phases: Fond du Lac County will assess the threshold status, every seven days, which may prompt threshold status change, indicated by color change. Every 14 days, Fond du Lac County assess the different phases, which may prompt phase change. These are referred to as Phase One, Phase Two and Phase Three. The Benchmark Criteria status report cannot jump phases. The county must pass through each phase to assess the impact of COVID-19.

Phase One– Fond du Lac County will assess Benchmark Criteria after 14 days, which is the COVID-19 incubation period. If any Benchmark Criteria are at least yellow in all categories of Cases, Testing, Care, PPE, and Tracing, Fond du Lac County will plan to move to Phase Two. See Phase Two details.

Phase Two– Fond du Lac County will remain in Phase Two for a minimum of 14 days, which is one incubation cycle of COVID-19. This will allow public health to assess the impact of the increased activity on the spread of the disease in Fond du Lac County. If any Benchmark Criteria changes to yellow or red during Phase Two, local public health will continue to reassess Benchmark Criteria every 7 days. If any Benchmark Criteria is in red for two consecutive weeks, Fond du Lac County will move back to Phase One. See Phase One details. Otherwise, if all categories are in at least yellow as the threshold status for 14 days, Fond du Lac County will advance to Phase Three. See Phase Three details.

Phase Three– Fond du Lac County will remain in Phase Three for a minimum of 14 days, which is one incubation cycle of COVID-19. This will allow public health to assess the impact of the increased activity on the spread of the disease in Fond du Lac County. If any Benchmark Criteria changes to yellow or red during Phase Three, local public health will continue to reassess Benchmark Criteria every 7 days. If any Benchmark Criteria is in red for two consecutive weeks, Fond du Lac County will move back to Phase Two. See Phase Two details. If any Benchmark Criteria is in red for four consecutive weeks, Fond du Lac County will move to Phase One. See Phase One details. The Benchmark Criteria status report cannot jump phases. The county must pass through each phase to assess the impact of COVID-19. When Fond du Lac County returns to Phase Three and thresholds are maintained, Fond du Lac County will remain in Phase Three.

Phase Three with COVID-19 Vaccine Availability- Once Fond du Lac County has reached Phase 2 of the Rollout of COVID-19 Vaccine to the Community Plan, the Safe Restart Plan will discontinue. However, weekly metrics will continue to be published on our website. The Fond du Lac County Health Department will internally monitor and perform surveillance on the 5 key benchmark criteria. In case of a surge in COVID positive cases, hospitalization and/or deaths, the department will work in partnership with Wisconsin Department of Health Services for appropriate recommendations to precede forward. Community members and local businesses can guarantee continued support from the Fond du Lac County Health Department to ensure all residents are safe and informed.

Adherence to these guidelines is important to keep our community safe. This requires all Fond du Lac County residents and business owners to take responsibility, work together and implement best practices. If this does not occur and concerning trends develop related COVID-19 cases or health system capacity, the municipality, county, state, or federal government will need to issue stronger restrictions. If you have questions about how to implement these recommendations, please call (920) 929-3085 or refer to our Fond du Lac County COVID-19 Page.

Resources:

Fond du Lac County COVID-19 Page

References:

MKE Reopen Order
WEDC Guidelines for Businesses
CDC Guidelines by Sector
FDL Community Vaccine Rollout Plan