

May 22, 2023

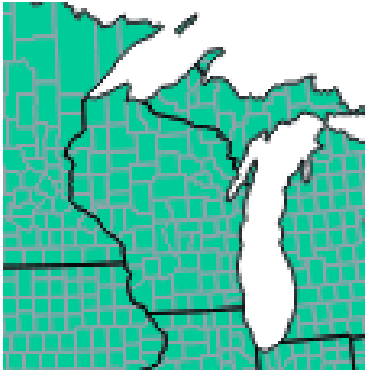
## *Family Ties*

### COVID Update

May 11, 2023, marked the end of the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration. After this date, CDC's authorizations to collect certain types of public health data expired. Along with the cancellation of this Public Health Emergency Declaration came a number of other changes.

*No New  
Positive Tests  
To Report*

Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 and the effectiveness of prevention and control strategies remains a public health priority. With the COVID-19 PHE declaration ending, some metrics will remain the same, but some will change in frequency, source, or availability. This is in part because CDC's authority to collect and receive certain types of data will change. CDC will continue to provide sustainable, high-impact, and timely information to inform decision-making.



The CDC will now be providing us with COVID-19 Hospital Admission Levels. This new standard will replace the COVID-19 Community Transmission Levels as the main indicator of county trends. We will now be posting a new map showing the hospital admission levels. According to the CDC the COVID-19 hospital admission levels are comparable with CCLs.

This new data and corresponding map will show the total number of new COVID-19 hospital admissions for every 100,000 people in the past week, allowing for comparisons between areas with different population sizes but not adjusted for age distribution. As you can see from the map, the entire state of Wisconsin, including Richland County, is green. This indicates low levels of hospital admissions or less than 10 hospital admissions per 100,000 in population.

New COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population, past week (total)

● Low (<10.0) ● Medium (10.0 to 19.9) ● High (≥20.0) ● Insufficient data

## What Does the End of the PHE Mean for You?

Along with the new data from the CDC (Center for Disease Control) comes other changes and new guidelines.

Vaccines will remain available. Access to COVID-19 vaccines will generally not be affected for now.

COVID-19 at-home tests may not be covered by insurance. Insurance providers will no longer be required to waive costs or provide free COVID-19 tests.

Treatments will remain available. Medication to prevent severe COVID-19, such as Paxlovid, will remain available for free while supplies last. After that, the price will be determined by the medication manufacturer and your health insurance coverage.

National reporting of COVID-19 may change. See details on page 1.

The new protocols which affect both visitors and our staff are as follows:

COVID Hospital Admission Level is

**LOW**, Medium, or **High**

Masks are Optional for Visitors and Staff

No testing Required by Staff at this time **UNLESS** staff have any respiratory symptoms then they must test prior to the start of their shift and then ring the bell for Nurse clearance **BEFORE** entering any the building (may test in the entrance areas).

- STAFF MUST WEAR A MASK IF THEY HAVE ANY COVID LIKE SYMPTOMS AND MUST TEST PRIOR TO THEIR SHIFT. SEE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS.
- STAFF MUST MASK IF THEY HAVE HAD A HIGH EXPOSURE TO COVID AND WILL BE REQUIRED TO TEST ON DAY 1, 3, AND 5.
- PLEASE NOTIFY THE DON IMMEDIATELY IF YOU FALL INTO ANY OF THESE CATERGORIES.

**VISTORS DO NOT VISIT if you are feeling ill at all no matter how minor your symptoms are.**

## April Showers Bring May Bowlers

When the weather turns nice what better way to celebrate than outdoor activities. The CNAs and Nurses took our Health Center residents outside for root beer floats and for bowling. They all loved being outside and enjoy the treat on a warm day.



*“We don’t receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us.”*

~ Marcel Proust

