The State of Wisconsin

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #82

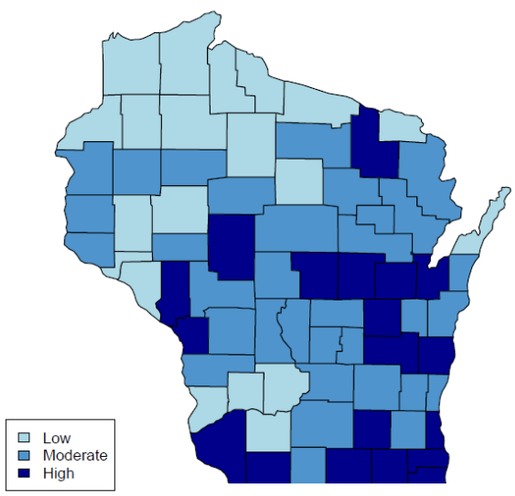
Relating to Declaring a Public Health Emergency

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of Wisconsinites throughout the state;

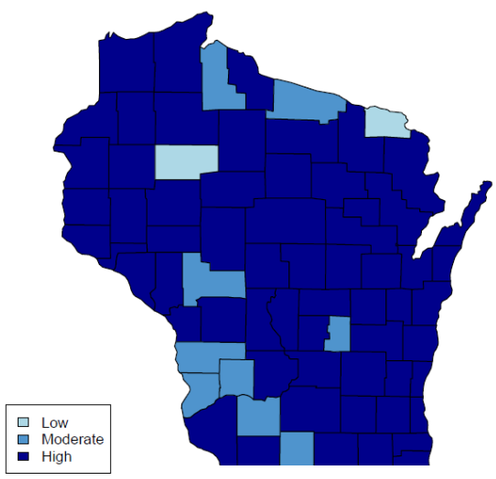
WHEREAS, despite the hard work Wisconsinites have done to slow the spread of COVID-19, data shows a new and concerning spike in infections;

WHEREAS, based on data collected by the Department of Health Services, the State of Wisconsin has experienced a drastic rise in COVID-19 cases throughout the entire state, with 61 of 72 counties (84 percent) representing 96 percent of the state's population experiencing high COVID-19 activity;

WHEREAS, this is a dramatic increase from where Wisconsin was in June, when only 19 of 72 counties (26%) were experiencing high COVID-19 activity, as depicted in the maps below:



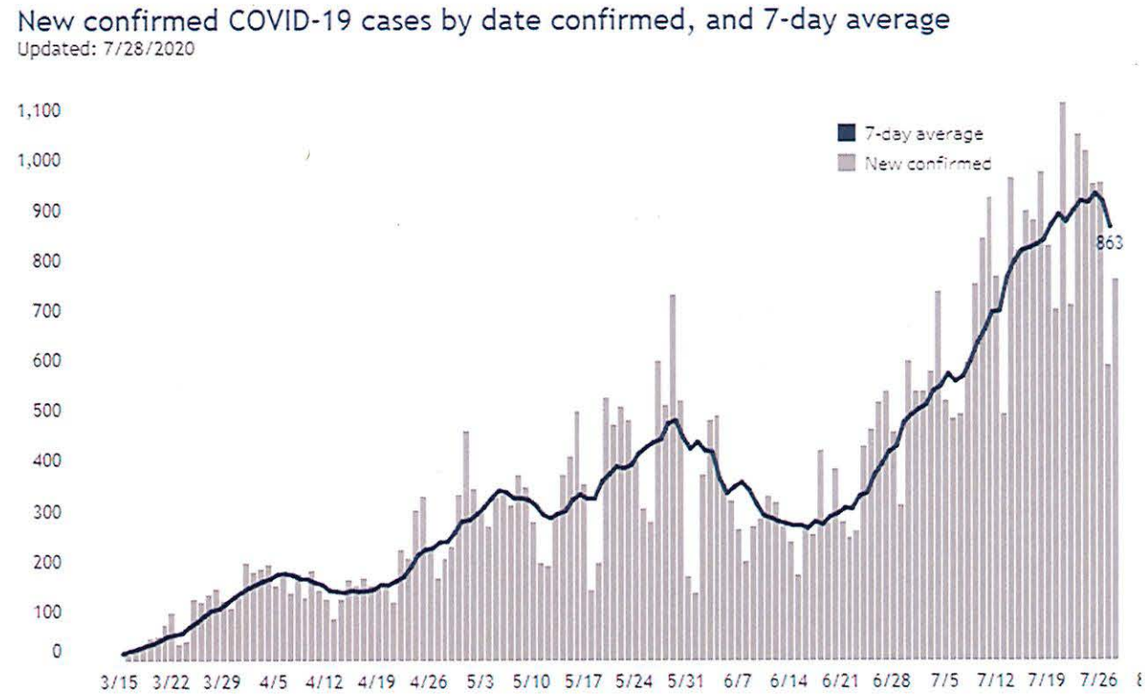
June 17, 2020



July 29, 2020

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2020, there were 18,543 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wisconsin; on July 1, 2020, there were 29,199 confirmed cases of COVID-19, a 57 percent increase from June 1; and on July 29, 2020, there were 51,049 confirmed cases of COVID-19, a 75 percent increase from July 1;

WHEREAS, Wisconsinites successfully "bent the curve" in May, but a drastic new spike has occurred due to the unprecedented number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 43 percent of all Wisconsin COVID-19 cases occurring since July 1:



WHEREAS, the average number of new confirmed cases of COVID-19 has drastically increased throughout July, with an average of 556 new cases each day between July 1-7, an average of 764 new cases each day between July 8-14 (a 37 percent increase from the previous week), an average of 890 new cases each day between July 15-21 (a 16 percent increase from the previous week), and an average of 938 new cases each day between July 22-26 (a 5 percent increase from the previous week);

WHEREAS, in a report dated July 26, 2020, the President's COVID-19 Task Force identified Wisconsin as a "red zone" state, along with 21 other states where there is significant, uncontrolled spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the federal report noted that the increasing number of cases "continues to be driven by increases in Milwaukee and Green Bay [core-based statistical areas], but also includes an increasing number of counties throughout the state, including in the west (Trempealeau, Pepin) and northwest (Iron County)";

WHEREAS, with the increase in COVID-19 cases, there is also an increased strain on our health care system, with a growing number of hospitalized patients and patients in intensive care units;

WHEREAS, the number of confirmed deaths as a result of COVID-19 has also drastically increased; from the first death in March to June 1, 595 Wisconsinites having passed away, and by July 29, 911 people having lost their lives;

WHEREAS, an increase in deaths serves as an indicator of increased disease burden; growth in deaths from the last two weeks of July was 1.9 times the growth in deaths for the first two weeks of July, a statistically significant measure of accelerating death rates;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control has forecasted that with Wisconsin's current disease growth, deaths will continue to increase and could reach 1,800 deaths by fall;

WHEREAS, pandemics come in waves of acceleration and deceleration of disease; because COVID-19 is a novel virus and there remain only limited effective treatments for infection and no vaccines to prevent spread of the disease, community mitigation strategies are the recommended intervention during acceleration phases;

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Wisconsin is now experiencing high virus activity levels, with some experiencing uncontrolled spread, and without quick intervention, there will be uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 infections statewide, which will lead to unnecessary serious illness or death, overwhelm our healthcare system, prevent schools from fully reopening, and unnecessarily undermine economic stability; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the health and wellbeing of its residents, and to secure our best chances for economic success, Wisconsin must avail itself of all resources needed to respond to and contain the presence of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, and specifically by Sections 321.39, 323.10, 323.12, and 323.13 of the Wisconsin Statutes, hereby:

1. Proclaim that a public health emergency, as defined in Section 323.02(16) of the Wisconsin Statutes, exists for the State of Wisconsin.

2. Designate the Department of Health Services as the lead agency to respond to the public health emergency and direct the Department to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and respond to COVID-19.

3. Authorize the Adjutant General to activate the Wisconsin National Guard as necessary and appropriate to assist in the State's response to the public health emergency, including providing personnel to support the August 11 primary election and personnel to operate community testing sites throughout Wisconsin.

4. Direct all state agencies to assist as appropriate in the State's ongoing response to the public health emergency.

5. Pursuant to Section 323.10 of the Wisconsin Statutes, this Public Health Emergency shall remain in effect for 60 days, or until it is revoked by the Governor or by joint resolution of the Wisconsin State Legislature.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this thirtieth day of July in the year of two thousand twenty.

TONY EVERS
Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State