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COVID Hospitalizations in Wisconsin Hit New Low on Memorial Day

186 people hospitalized with COVID, lowest since WHA began tracking pandemic data

On May 31, the [Wisconsin Hospital Association \(WHA\) COVID-19 dashboard](#) registered the lowest number of COVID hospitalizations—186—since the association first started collecting data related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The previous low of 192 was on April 2, 2020, when the dashboard first went live in the earliest stage of the pandemic. Hospitalizations fell even further, to 184, on June 2.

Hospitalizations in Wisconsin peaked at 2,277 on Nov. 17, 2020, after a precipitous 13-week rise, and have since fallen steadily, hitting a low of 193 on March 21, 2021, before rising again to 350 on April 25. The current low represents a 92% drop from November’s high.

Leveraging information, resources and personnel from its subsidiary the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center (WHAIC), WHA developed its COVID-19 dashboard early in the pandemic to provide reliable, real-time data about the virus in Wisconsin. Logging its one millionth view on April 30, 2021, the online data tool has for more than a year provided valuable information to policymakers, the media and the general public on the impact of COVID-19 on the state’s health care system and its patients.

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EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

June 16

Compliance: Board Accountability and Repercussions
Webinar

June 23

AP Automation for the modern hospital – Part 2: Today’s Trends
Webinar Series

Visit www.wha.org
for more educational
opportunities

WHA Moves to Five-Day Schedule for COVID Dashboard Updates

Due to changes in data availability, effective June 5, 2021, the [Wisconsin Hospital Association’s COVID-19 situational awareness dashboard](#) will only be updated Monday through Friday. Saturday and Sunday data will be included in the Monday dashboard update. The data for the COVID-19 situational awareness dashboard

comes from two sources—the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and EMResource, which is a tool that hospitals use to alert and communicate with each other and with their emergency response partners, not only in an emergency like COVID-19, but also on a day-to-day basis. DHS recently changed its dashboard update schedule to weekdays, and WHA will correspondingly adopt this schedule.



The screenshot shows the WHA COVID-19 Situational Awareness Update dashboard. It features the WHA logo, navigation tabs (About WHA, Advocacy & Public Policy, Education & Events, Media Room, Quality & Patient Safety, Health Care Topics A-Z), and a search bar. The main content area is titled "COVID-19 Situational Awareness Update" and includes a description of the dashboard, data sources (COVID-19 cases and deaths data from the DHS Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS), and all other data from EMResource), and a disclaimer about testing data. A "WHA CONTACT" box lists contact information for Ann Zenz, Jennifer Stauder, and IM&MC. A "STOP the COVID Spread!" logo is also visible.

Seven-Day Average of COVID Cases Lowest Since April 2020

On June 1, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) reported a seven-day average of positive COVID-19 cases of 213—the lowest such figure since April 2020, during the early days of virus tracking in the state. DHS registered only 106, 76 and 50 new COVID cases in the state on May 30, May 31 and June 1, respectively, bringing the average weekly case count to a level not seen in over a year.

On June 2, COVID cases statewide rose to 314. DHS has recently changed its [COVID-19 summary statistics page](#) to show seven-day averages for cases, tests and deaths from COVID-19.

The summary page also tallies disease activity by county. As of June 2, 39 counties in Wisconsin were seeing high levels of COVID activity, while 33 counties registered medium activity.

To date, 47.9% Wisconsin residents have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and 42.1% of Wisconsinites have completed their vaccine series.

Fast Facts from the WHA Information Center: Lyme Disease

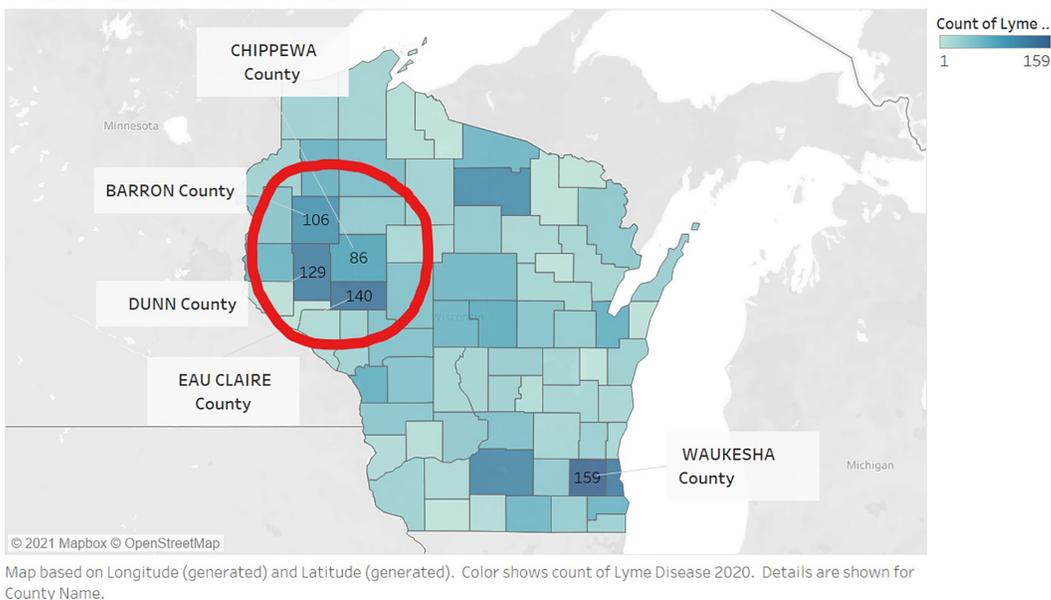
Summertime in Wisconsin calls for hot, sunny days by the lake, camping and many other fun outdoor activities that make life in the badger state so unique. With summer, however, come bugs and insects associated with warm weather. One particular insect, the tick, can carry a small, yet very dangerous bacterium which causes Lyme disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease found within the U.S. The agency estimates that close to half-a-million people get Lyme disease each year.



Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center (WHAIC) claims data show that in 2020, there were 3,200 reported cases of Lyme disease. This number often is very underreported because of misdiagnosis, diagnostic errors or lack of data.

According to WHAIC data, many of the hospitalizations for Lyme disease occurred in northwest Wisconsin. Barron County, Chippewa County, Dunn County and Eau Claire County have the highest rates in area. The zip code with the largest number of visits for Lyme disease—82—is located in Menomonie in Dunn County. The data also showed the average age of Lyme disease patients was 52.

Map of Lyme Disease visits, 2020



Given the potential seriousness of Lyme disease, it is important to recognize its signs and symptoms. Early symptoms (3-30 days after infection) include fever, chills, headache, muscle and joint aches and rash. One of the more commonly known symptoms of the disease is a rash accompanying the bite. There are two main types of rashes: the “bull’s eye” rash or a large rash patch over the bite site.

WCMEW Offers Clinical Training Forum

The Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce (WCMEW) is hosting a complimentary virtual educational opportunity designed for health care professionals involved in clinical training wanting to engage with colleagues and to learn about clinical training challenges and best practices.

[WCMEW Clinical Training Forum](#)

June 24, 2021

9 – 11:30 a.m.

Key topics to be addressed include:

- Placement practices
- Importance of preceptors
- Enhancing the clinical training experience
- Achieving true partnerships between schools and health systems

Designed for health care professionals involved in clinical training as well as representatives from schools, programs and health systems looking to learn more, the forum will share best practices; define ways to optimize the clinical training experience; and provide insights on crafting guiding principles for an ideal learning culture. To register, click [here](#).

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The dashboard translates complex data into easy-to-understand visualizations of COVID-19 and its impact statewide and regionally.

WHAIC also recently documented the effects of the first 12 months of the COVID-19 pandemic on Wisconsin's health care system and patients seeking both COVID and non-COVID care. The report, *COVID-19 Effects on Wisconsin Hospitals, Health Systems and Patient Care*, is available [here](#).

To view WHA's COVID-19 dashboard, click [here](#).

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