

DANE COUNTY COVID-19 DATA

April 20, 2023 *Data from March 20—April 16*

Takeaway Messages

- Cases have been stable for the past four weeks. We currently have a 14-day average of 45 confirmed and probable cases per day. Inpatient hospitalizations increased from 3/20 to 4/2 but have been stable for the past two weeks, and we currently have a 14-day average of 58 people hospitalized with COVID in Dane County hospitals each day. Percent positivity is at 7.9% for the past two weeks, and we're currently averaging 490 PCR tests per day over the past two weeks.
- For the most recent sampling period (4/13-4/18), Madison has a very low COVID wastewater concentration with no significant increase. The Oregon sewershed resumed data collection for COVID wastewater monitoring in January 2023 after a hiatus since June 2022. For the most recent sampling period (3/30-4/13), Oregon has a high COVID wastewater concentration with no significant increase.
- **Next month will be the final COVID Data Snapshot.** With the ending of the Public Health Emergency on May 11 and the end of the influenza season, we will end the data snapshots and pare down our COVID Dashboard to just hospitalization and death data, updated once per week. We will resume more comprehensive reporting in the fall, inclusive of all respiratory viruses, without a singular focus on COVID.

Domain	Measure	Dane County Status	
		3/20—4/2	4/3—4/16
Epidemiology: We monitor metrics related to disease burden, severity, and transmission in the community.	2-week average daily number of confirmed and probable cases and trend	55 →	45 →
	2-week average daily percent positivity	8.8%	7.9%
	2-week average daily COVID-19 inpatient hospitalizations and trend We are not able to discern whether these hospitalizations are among Dane County residents or among patients transferred to the Dane County hospitals from the surrounding areas.	60 ↗	58 →
	4-week total number of deaths and trend Deaths due to COVID-19 among both confirmed and probable cases.		8 →

Variants: We monitor whether COVID variants of interest, concern, or high consequence are becoming the dominant strain of virus in our community, which may have impacts on transmissibility, disease severity, and/or impact of diagnostics, treatments, or vaccines.

Variant strains as the predominant version of virus in our community.

On November 26th, 2021 the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the Omicron variant as a Variant of Concern (VOC).

We have seen several different strains of Omicron since December 2021. BA.1 was responsible for the initial Omicron wave from December '21-March '22, then BA.2 and BA.2.12.1 became dominant in April '22 through June. From July '22 through the end of the year, BA.5 was the dominant circulating variant along with its sublineages BQ1.1 and BQ.1. Currently, the majority of sequences are a sublineage of BA.2, known as XBB.1.5.

The BA.2 Omicron subvariant XBB and its sublineages are the dominant virus strain in Wisconsin.

In the US, the BA.2 subvariant XBB.1.5 is estimated to represent a majority of new cases (82.1%).

Wastewater: Several agencies in Wisconsin collaborate to [monitor wastewater](#) to get early detection of COVID-19 within a community. Wastewater monitoring is becoming increasingly useful as more people take at-home/antigen tests which don't get counted as confirmed COVID cases.

COVID wastewater concentration **categories** are very high, high, moderate, low, or very low. The category is determined by comparing the three most recent samples at a given facility to all of the samples in the past six months.

The **trajectory** is either "no alert" or "significant increase." A significant increase occurs when the five most recent measurements show an increasing trend, and the average of the three most recent measurements is higher than all measurements from the past 30 days.

There are two sewersheds in Dane County participating in COVID

Madison 
Category: **Very Low**
Trajectory: **No alert**

Oregon 
Category: **High**
Trajectory: **No alert**

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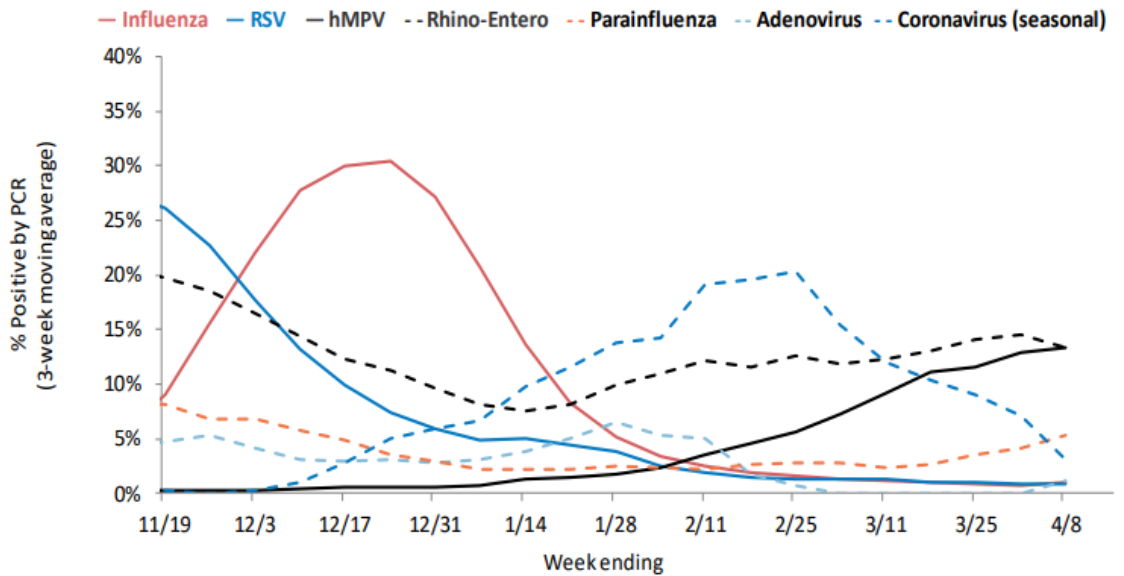
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Data Spotlight: Non-COVID Respiratory Diseases

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) releases weekly [respiratory virus surveillance reports](#) during the influenza season. This week's report shows that statewide, human metapneumovirus (hMPV) is the predominant circulating non-COVID respiratory virus. Influenza-like illness activity is low both statewide and nationally, and flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) presence appear to be very low. The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene reports [similar data](#), which shows that the number of positive tests for influenza and RSV are very low statewide.

Percent of PCR tests that are positive for various respiratory diseases (3-week moving average), Wisconsin statewide

The DHS respiratory report shows that the percent positivity by PCR test has been declining or stable for most monitored respiratory diseases, with the exception of hMPV and parainfluenza, which are increasing.



Most [states in the U.S.](#) are experiencing minimal to low levels of influenza-like illness (ILI), which means fever plus a cough or sore throat. In Wisconsin, ILI activity has plateaued below baseline, at a low level. Wisconsin's 3-week average percent of outpatient visits that are due to ILI is now below where we were at this time in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, but above where we were at this time in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 (via the DHS respiratory report, below).

