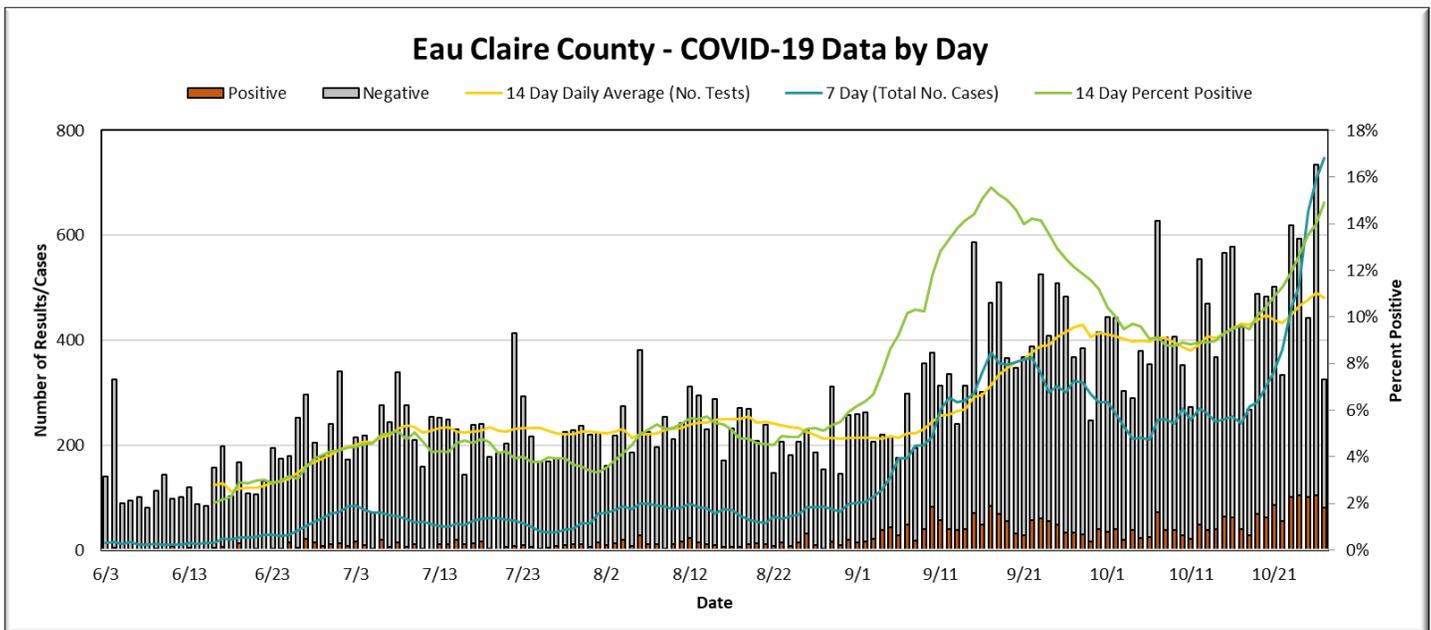


COVID-19 State and Local Case Summary

Data as reported to DHS by 9:00 PM on 10/27/2020						
<i>*unless otherwise noted, change calculated from previous week (may include jurisdiction corrections)</i>						
County/State	Total Cases	Change from Previous Day	Change from Previous Week	14 Day Cumulative Positivity Rate [^]	Cases per 100k People	Deaths
Eau Claire	3,531	+89 (+2.6%)	+748 (+26.9%)	14.9% (+4.9)	3,431.7 (+726.9)	12 (No Change)
Buffalo	273	+11 (+4.2%)	+54 (+24.7%)	13.2% (+4.1)	2,020.9 (+399.8)	3 (No Change)
Chippewa	1,685	+104 (+6.6%)	+470 (+38.7%)	14.7% (+3.4)	2,623.8 (+731.9)	13 (+6)
Clark	889	+22 (+2.5%)	+175 (+24.5%)	11.0% (-2.4)	2,558.9 (+503.7)	16 (+3)
Dunn	1,066	+27 (+2.6%)	+166 (+18.4%)	10.9% (+2.5)	2,380.7 (+370.7)	1 (No Change)
Jackson	494	+22 (+4.7%)	+185 (+59.9%)	12.7% (+3.9)	2,392.9 (+896.1)	1 (No Change)
Pepin	146	+6 (4.3%)	+44 (+43.1%)	14.5% (+6.4)	1,986.7 (+598.8)	0 (No Change)
Trempealeau	1,036	+30 (+3.0%)	+126 (+13.8%)	10.5% (+1.6)	3,532.0 (+429.6)	2 (No Change)
Wisconsin	210,126	+3,815 (+1.85%)	+27,439 (+15.02%)	12.8% (+1.2)	3,634.7 (+474.6)	1,897 (+216/+12.85%)

[^]This rate is calculated 'by test'. This means that if one person is tested multiple times, each of those test results are counted in the denominator of total tests.



Additional Data: [EC County](#) [WI County-Level](#) [Wisconsin](#) [U.S.](#)

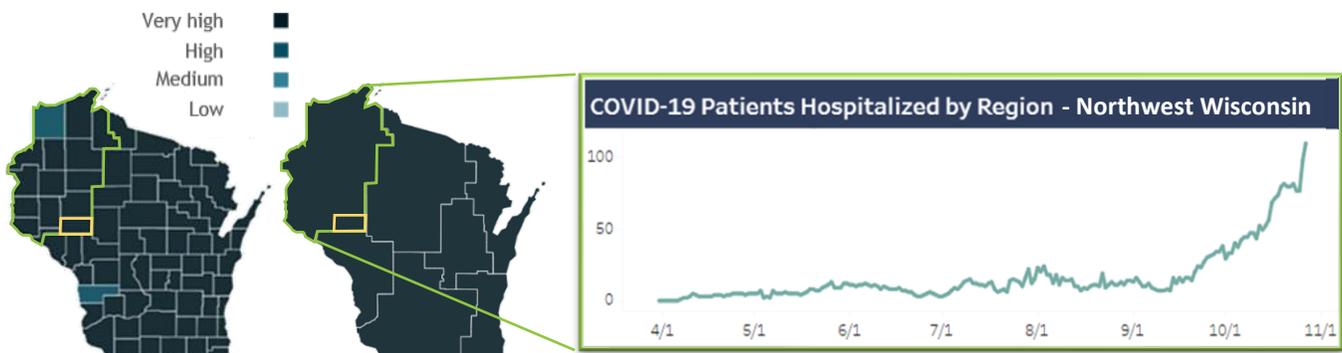
Eau Claire County Weekly Metrics Summary

(Unless otherwise noted, metrics were calculated using data reported by WI DHS during 14-days ending 10/27/2020 and compared to the 14-days ending on 10/20/2020)

● Good ■ Proceed with Caution ● Metric is Concerning — Status Not Classified ↓/↑ Metric Improved ↓/↑ Metric Declined

Metric Description	Value	Change	Metric Status
Percent Positive Tests <i>(New Calculation by WI DHS)</i>	14.9%	↑4.9	●
Change in New Cases <i>(within last 14 days)</i> 1,060 Total: 748 in final 7 days/312 in first 7 days	1,060 Total (748/312)	↑140%	●
Case Activity Level <i>(State Calculated)</i>	Very High	No Change	---
New Outbreaks	24	↑8	●
Community Spread	41%	↓2	●
COVID-Like Illness Activity Level <i>(State Measure)</i>	High	No Change	---
Tests Conducted <i>(# of tests/100k people/day)</i>	467	↑68	---
Health Care Worker Testing	Discontinued	---	---
Crisis Care Patient Treatment	Discontinued	---	---
Case Contact Timeliness <i>(in 24 hrs.)</i>	77%	↑8	■
Contact Tracing <i>(in 48 hrs.)</i>	54% in 48 hrs.	↓6	●

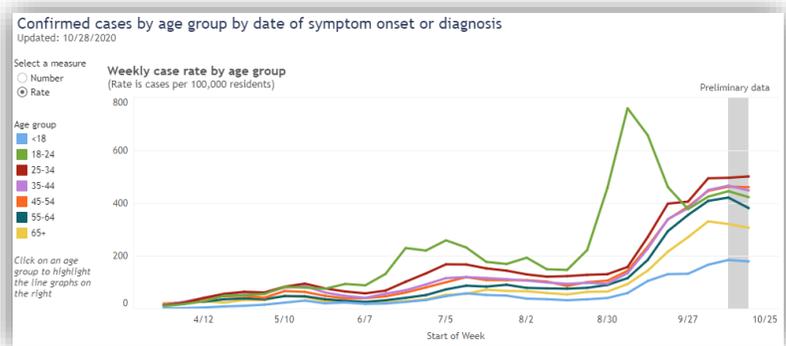
COVID-19 Activity Level by County and Region and Northwest WI Hospitalization Data



Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services [COVID-19 Activity Page](#)

Data and Metric Narrative

As foreshadowed in the previous situation report, the local data and metrics depict a dire situation in Eau Claire County. Both the positivity rate and number of cases over the past 14-days have reached a new all-time high at 14.9% and 1,060 cases (rate of 75.7 per day). When looking at just the second half of this period, the data are even worse (17.9% positivity and 748 cases or a rate of 106.9 per day). For additional context, the rate of cases seen over the past 7-days is more than twice that seen previously and more than 4 times greater than the very high threshold (25.75 cases per day) for our local population. The continued goal is for the case rate to be closer to 10 cases per day, as rates exceeding that amount have resulted in a compromised ability to thoroughly interview cases and to speak with close contacts. At the State and local level, cases continue to be more widely distributed, both in terms of age (see [graphic](#) to right) and geographical distribution. Since late-September, the three 10-year age groups spanning the ages of 25-54 have sustained the 3 highest case rates each week. In Eau Claire County, each of the rural census tracts have had their highest weekly case rate within the past two weeks, which continues the shifting trend in cases from urban to rural areas. This trend is also being seen elsewhere in Wisconsin and nationally.



The current case rate in Eau Claire County continues to correlate with a rating of “Very High” for activity level, while the trajectory in activity is “Growing.” Furthermore, the trajectory of growth in Eau Claire County is currently the highest of any Wisconsin county. All 7 of the bordering counties and 70 of 72 counties in Wisconsin are classified as having “Very High” activity. Among the surrounding counties, Jackson, Dunn, Pepin, and Chippewa are also classified as having a “Growing” trajectory, while Buffalo, Clark, and Trempealeau are classified as having “No Significant Change.” Additional information about COVID-19 activity by county and region can be viewed at the newly updated [DHS Activity Level webpage](#), including data illustrations that are also shown on the bottom of page 2 of this report.

There were 24 new outbreaks identified in the county within the past 14-days, which is 7 more than the previous high set last month. The number of tests being performed also reached an all-time high over the past 14-days. While this is likely mostly indicative of an increased demand due to widespread disease, it is encouraging that additional testing is being sought, as identification of cases is one of the fundamental components of disease containment. The two other metrics that showed some improvement include the timeliness of reaching cases and the percentage of cases attributed to community spread. Despite modest improvement in these areas, both metrics remain concerning.

Statewide and locally, hospitalizations from COVID-19 continue to climb. The number of hospitalized patients in Wisconsin continues to reach a new all-time high nearly every day and is now over three times greater than the peak number reached last spring. All regions have set their all-time high in COVID-19 patients since October 16th, with all but 2 regions (Fox Valley and Northeast WI) setting all-time highs this week. As discussed last week, the Health Department will be transitioning to new health care capacity measures due to the state no longer reporting the previous measures. The tentative plan is for the previous 2 measures to be replaced with a larger suite of

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measures intended to better summarize the availability of health care in Eau Claire County and the Northwest Region of Wisconsin. The Department expects to incorporate these new measures in the metrics for next week. Hospital capacity data for the region reveals a 39% increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations and a 50% increase in COVID-19 ICU inpatients over the past week and multiple Health Care facilities in the region now state that they are experiencing a critical shortage of staffing. These data and anecdotal evidence suggest that local and regional Health Care capacity is reaching concerning levels.

Like hospitalizations, the number of deaths continues to increase, both statewide and locally. 9 more deaths were attributed to COVID-19 across Eau Claire and surrounding counties in the past week. At the state level, the average number of COVID-19 deaths occurring per day continues to rise. Over the 14-days ending on Tuesday October 27th, an average of more than 25 deaths per day were attributed to COVID-19 in Wisconsin with that number climbing further in ensuing days. Nearly 1/3 of Wisconsin's total COVID-19 deaths and nearly 70% of the total COVID-19 deaths across Eau Claire and surrounding counties have occurred in the past 30 days.

The sustained increase in the trajectory of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths prompts significant concern for the weeks ahead. The Health Department continues to implore the community to follow the measures that we know work to slow the spread of disease – keeping social circles small, staying home when sick, maintaining physical distance of 6 feet, washing hands frequently, and wearing cloth face coverings whenever in public or around people not from your household. This is now more important than it has ever been. It also remains critical that people who have tested positive or have been notified that they are close contact answer the phone from public health staff to talk through the need to isolate or quarantine. It is also critical that those that have tested positive and those that are close contacts go to our website to review new information there about what to do next. Isolation and quarantine are difficult but necessary. Slowing the spread of disease is critical for keeping businesses, schools, and all other shared priorities open and thriving.

Additional Metrics:	WI Activity Level by County/Region	EC County Metrics - Summary
	WI Hospital Capabilities	EC County Metrics - Detailed
	WI Facility-Level Investigations	EC County Exposures & Investigations

Eau Claire County COVID-19 Prevention and Control Community Expectations

The Eau Claire County COVID-19 Prevention and Control Community Expectations remain as issued on 10/16/2020. No changes were made to these expectations since the last Situation Report was finalized.

Additional Information:	Current Expectations	UWEC Dashboard
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Other Eau Claire County Incident Command Updates

**Remains unchanged since last report*

New On-Line Resources for Cases and Close Contacts

The Health Department disease investigators are working diligently as they attempt to make contact with new cases and close contacts that are determined to be at elevated risk for severe illness or present an increased

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potential for a concerning outbreak (schools, congregate living setting, etc.). Unfortunately, the current volume of cases makes even this lower level of case follow-up incredibly difficult to sustain. As a result, disease investigators have been forced to prioritize investigation work even further, meaning close contacts and even some cases may not be contacted by phone by a disease investigator. If you have been notified that you have tested positive for COVID-19 or that you are a close contact to a case and have not yet heard from the Health Department, please visit the [Eau Claire County COVID-19 Information Hub](#) to understand the public health expectations related to isolation and quarantine. There are now 2 links on the page entitled “*I Tested Positive*” and “*I am a Close Contact*,” which walk through the expectations for each scenario. If there are further questions, the Department encourages cases and close contacts to call the COVID-19 Call Center at (715) 831-7425.

Court Developments Concerning Statewide Orders

On October 23rd, a Wisconsin appeals court ruled in favor of The Mix Up Bar in Amery, WI and Pro-Life Wisconsin reinstating a temporary restraining order blocking enforcement of [Emergency Order #3](#). This decision is pending further appeal and comes just days after the restraining order had been lifted by a Barron County Circuit Judge. The order in question places limits on many indoor public gatherings in Wisconsin to no more than 25 percent of a room or building’s total occupancy through Friday, November 6th.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a case against the statewide face covering mandate or [Emergency Order #1](#), which is currently in place statewide through November 21st. This case is centered around the argument that Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers lacks the authority to issue successive Emergency Orders for the same Public Health Emergency. On October 12th, a Polk County Circuit Judge ruled that Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers retained this authority, thereby upholding the Governor’s ability to impose the face covering mandate. The Wisconsin Supreme Court is set to hear the case on Monday November 16th.

Additional developments regarding these and other applicable orders will be provided as they are available.

Upcoming Election

Local municipalities have been working closely with Incident Command personnel to ensure that Eau Claire County residents have access to safe polling sites for the election Tuesday November 3rd. While many in the county have taken advantage of absentee and advanced in-person voting options, there will undoubtedly be many people visiting the polls on Tuesday. With the unprecedented prevalence of disease in the community, it is vital that in-person voters adhere to communicable disease prevention principles when visiting polling sites to reduce risk of COVID-19 spread in these settings. Such measures include maintaining physical distance, wearing a cloth face covering, regularly washing/disinfecting your hands, and considering alternative voting options if you feel ill. Also please note that there are alternative options for voting for individuals who are in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19, or those that may be uncomfortable visiting the polling sites due to compromising health conditions. For more information on voting and all of the options above, please visit <https://elections.wi.gov/covid-19> or contact your local municipal clerk. We encourage everyone to vote and are hopeful that the practices put into place will limit the potential for spread at local polling places.

Guidance for Halloween Activities

Traditional trick-or-treating activities and Halloween parties present increased risk for COVID-19 transmission. Due to the current prevalence of disease within and around Eau Claire County, the Health Department suggests

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that communities and individuals consider not hosting or participating in such activities this year. However, there are precautions that can be taken to reduce risk of community spread of COVID-19 during holiday activities if they are held. Local Health Department guidance can be found [here](#), with additional recommendations available through [CDC](#), [WI DHS](#), and [Harvard Global Health Institute \(HGHI\)](#). Wisconsin DHS has published [Halloween 1-pagers](#) in English, Spanish, Hindi, Hmong, and Somali. We hope people find ways to enjoy Halloween in safe, healthy, and fun ways.

Multiple Community Testing Sites Now Operating in Eau Claire County

There are now 2 Community Testing Sites established in Eau Claire County. Drive-thru testing at both sites is being offered free of charge and with support from the Wisconsin National Guard (WING) to supplement existing clinical testing options in and around Eau Claire County.

The first of these sites is a regional site located at 6697 US Hwy 12 West in Eau Claire near the intersection of the North Crossing and I94 on the west side of the county. This site is operating from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm on Mondays and Fridays and from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturdays through December 7th. Registration prior to arrival and on the day of the test is requested and can be completed [here](#). Additional details on this site can be viewed [here](#).

The second site is located at the Augusta Senior & Community Center at 616 W. Washington St. in Augusta and is operating from 2:00 to 7:00 pm on Wednesdays through December 9th. Registration prior to arrival and on the day of the test is requested and can be completed [here](#). Additional details on this site can be viewed [here](#).

More details about these and other testing options are available at the [Symptoms and Testing page](#) of the Eau Claire COVID-19 Information Hub and the Wisconsin DHS [Community Testing Page](#).

COVID-19 Potential Community Exposures and Public Health Investigations

As a reminder, Eau Claire City-County Health Department alerts the public of [potential COVID-19 exposure](#) at local establishments whenever a positive individual is known to have visited a location and have been in prolonged close contact with persons that they are unable to identify. The new public notifications issued in the past week are as follows:

- 1) **Dooley's Pub** from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm on Thursday October 15th; and
- 2) **Ray's Place** from 7:30 pm – 11:00 pm on Thursday October 15th

Any future public notifications will be posted on the above web page along with a weekly summary of the active and total Public Health Investigations in Eau Claire County related to COVID-19.

As a reminder, due to the extreme volume of cases, our disease investigators remain limited in their ability to thoroughly interview cases and identify and contact their close contacts. As a result of the modified public health practices, potential community exposures are less likely to be revealed during case follow-up. At the current rate of community spread, anyone who is engaging in activities requiring close contact with other individuals that they do not know should assume that these activities come with an elevated risk of exposure.

Upcoming Influenza Vaccination Clinics

There is currently a drive-thru influenza vaccination clinic slated to occur at the soccer park parking lot near the YMCA Indoor Sports Center (3456 Craig Rd) from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm on Saturday November 7, 2020. The Health

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Department encourages residents to obtain influenza vaccinations through their health care providers as a limited supply of vaccines will be available at these mass vaccination community events. The upcoming clinic is intended to provide an alternate option for **youth (ages 6 months – 18 years)** to be vaccinated. Influenza vaccinations are especially important this year both to reduce the typical number of influenza hospitalizations and to reduce individuals' risk of co-infection with influenza and COVID-19, which is likely to increase risk for severe illness. As hospitals are already experiencing unprecedented numbers of hospitalizations due to COVID-19, keeping the numbers of non-COVID-19 hospitalizations low would be helpful in enhancing hospital capacity. Vaccines will be administered until they are no longer available. Additional information about this event can be found [here](#). This and previous vaccination drive--thru clinics have provided an opportunity to evaluate strategies and processes that may be used for future community vaccination events for COVID-19.

***COVID-19 Call Center**

The number for the COVID call center is (715) 831-7425 with hours 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday. Callers may leave a message and a return phone call will occur within the same business day.

***Current Incident Objectives**

Objective #1: Contain and mitigate community spread of COVID-19

Objective #2: Coordinate strategies to facilitate a safe and effective social and economic reopening and recovery

Objective #3: Provide relevant, accurate information and resources to the general public, specialty populations, and key partners

Objective #4: Facilitate and support the Development and implementation of community-wide health care surge and response plans and actions in coordination with local health care providers and state and federal agencies

Objective #5: Sustain and adapt operation of the Emergency Operations Center and incident command elements

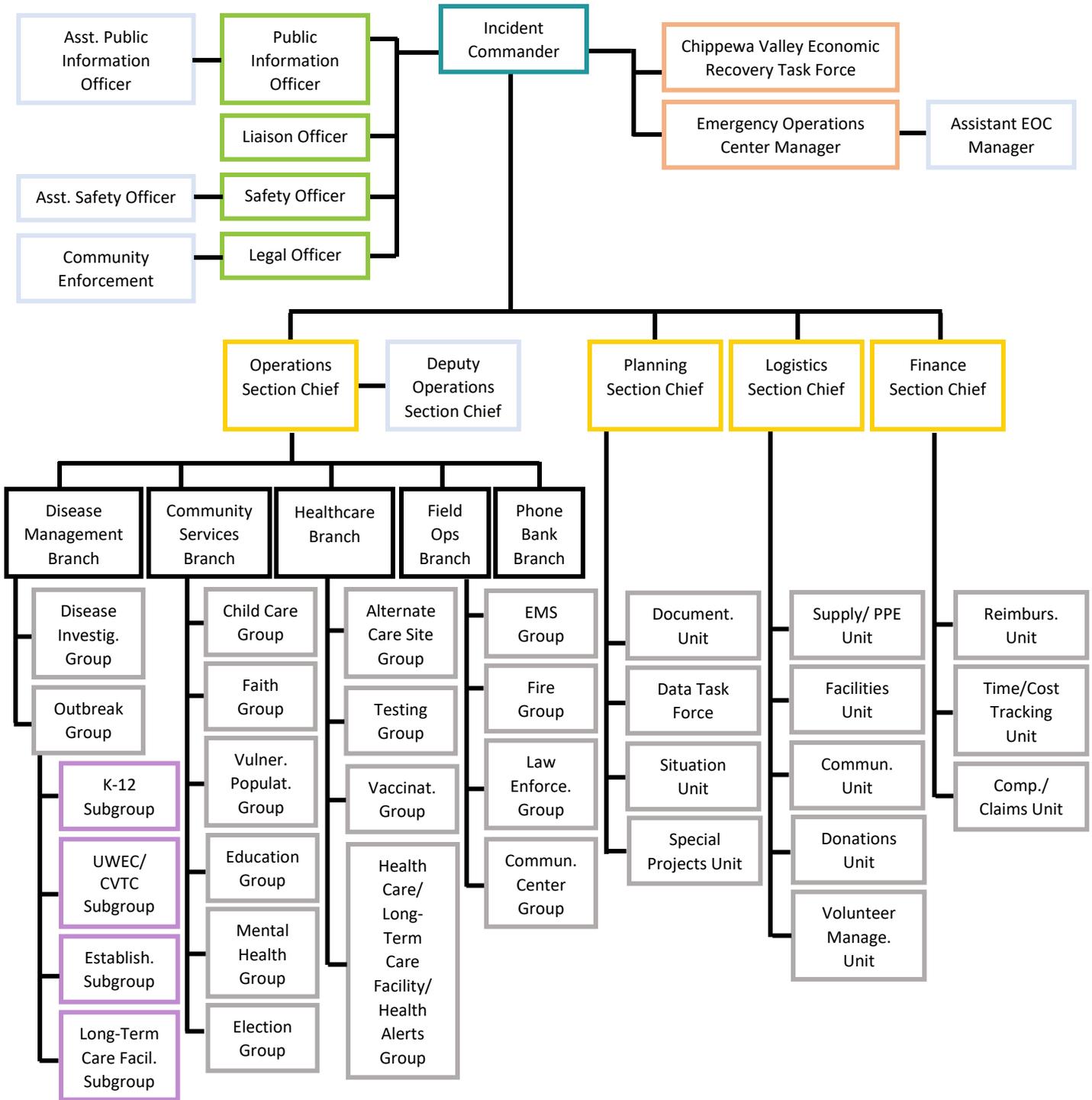
***Reminder to Sign up for Situation Report e-notifications:**

If you would like to receive direct notification whenever new reports are added, please sign up for an automated email notification at: <https://www.eauclairewi.gov/our-city/sign-up-for-e-notifications>. To successfully register for these updates, you must provide your name and email address and subscribe to "COVID-19 Situation Report."

***Current Duration of Operational Period**

1 week (7 Days) - Friday 9:00 am – Friday 8:59 am

Current Organizational Structure



Other Pertinent Links and Resources

** Remains unchanged since last report*

- ❖ Wisconsin's [COVID-19 vaccination plan](#) is now publicly available. This plan will be posted to the DHS COVID-19 [Resources](#) page and [Health Care Providers](#) page. See the [Executive Summary](#) of the plan, which provides a high-level overview of the full plan submitted to CDC.
- ❖ [Kaiser Family Foundation](#): Summary of recent studies on long-term COVID-19 effects
- ❖ The [Stop the COVID Spread!](#) coalition has released its second [public education announcement](#) on broadcast TV and digital platforms statewide, featuring three players from the Green Bay Packers. The Milwaukee Brewers and Milwaukee Bucks are also joining the coalition as it expands its efforts.
- ❖ Additional communication toolkits and resources:
 - [You Stop the Spread](#) campaign resources
 - [DHS COVID-19 Language, Graphic, and Print Resources](#)
- ❖ [CDC COVID-19 One-Stop Shop Toolkits](#), including videos, social media, PSAs, print resources, checklists, FAQs, and web resources
- ❖ [Latest WI DPI School Nurse Update](#)
 - Past updates can be found [here](#).
- ❖ 10/27 Media Briefing Clip: [Secretary-designee Palm and Dr. Westergaard](#) on UW Campus' success in curbing outbreaks through isolation, quarantine, and wearing face coverings (35:40)
- ❖ Social media posts for safe Halloween activities: [Get Creative](#) and [Stay Safe](#)
- ❖ To help schools to be more consistent, accurate, and thorough when supporting local contact tracing efforts, the following resources have been developed and posted on the [DPI COVID-19 Information for School Health Services page](#) under "School Nurses". These have been shared with WASDA and school nurses.
 - [Case Interview Script for Schools](#)
 - [Contact Interview Script for Schools](#)
 - [Contact Tracing Training for Schools](#)
- ❖ Secretary-designee Andrea Palm: [Making Safer Choices to Prevent Public Health System Overwhelm](#) (video)
- ❖ [How are COVID-19 cases tracked and reported?](#)
- ❖ [Halloween 1-pagers](#) are now available in English, Spanish, Hindi, Hmong, and Somali
- ❖ New and Updated from CDC:
 - [MMWR Early Release](#): Adoption of Strategies to Mitigate Transmission of COVID-19 During a Statewide Primary Election--Delaware, September 2020
 - [CDC Media Telebriefing Transcript on Operation Warp Speed](#), October 23, 2020
 - [COVID-19 Science Update](#), October 23, 2020
- ❖ [Important Information: WEDSS Upgrade](#)
 - An advisory has been added to the [DHS COVID-19 Data page](#) that helps explain fluctuations in data.

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- ❖ 10/22/2020 Media Briefing Segments:
 - [Asymptomatic spread](#) (14:31)
 - [State and local contact tracing capacity and protocol](#) (17:15)
 - [Effectiveness of public health strategies](#) (26:00)

- ❖ Social Media Post: [Isolation v. Quarantine: What's the Difference?](#)

Additional Links and Resources:

[EC County COVID-19 Information Hub](#)

[Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce COVID-19 Website](#)

[Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation \(WEDC\)](#)

[Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Guidance](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Health Service \(WI DHS\) COVID-19 website](#)

[Health Care Providers webpage](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID-19 website](#)

[CDC Health Alert Network \(HAN\)](#)

Next Scheduled Situation Report Date: Friday November 6th, 2020