

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 22, 2022

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: The Office of the County Executive

Subject: Report from the Office of the County Executive, providing information on current COVID-19 mitigation procedures, and the actions Milwaukee County is continuing to take to ensure it keeps its workforce and the people they serve safe.

File Type: Informational

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**BACKGROUND**

Throughout the pandemic, the goal of Milwaukee County's COVID-19 pandemic management process has been to continue County government operations and critical services for its residents, while keeping its staff and participants, as well as the wider community, safe. Milwaukee County government has many public-facing operations, often interacts with particularly vulnerable individuals, and is responsible for several of the largest congregate facilities in the county. A comprehensive mitigation strategy is crucial to ensuring that Milwaukee County government can continue providing the critical services upon which many of our residents depend, while keeping employees and those service users as safe as possible from COVID-19.

The foundation of Milwaukee County's COVID-19 mitigation process is the CDC COVID-19 Community Level framework. This framework, released in late February 2022, classifies community risk into three levels - Low, Medium, and High. The CDC uses the combination of the three metrics referenced below to determine the COVID-19 community level.

- COVID-19 Cases per 100/k Residents
- COVID-19 Hospital Admissions per 100/k Residents
- COVID-19 Inpatient Bed Utilization

New COVID-19 admissions and the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied represent the current potential for strain on the health system. Data on new cases acts as an early warning indicator of potential increases in health system strain in the event of a COVID-19 surge.

The table below indicates how the CDC uses these metrics to determine the COVID-19 levels for every County in the United States. Milwaukee County is currently classified as "low".

<b>COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community</b>				
<b>New COVID-19 Cases</b> Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%






**NEXT STEPS**

With the expiration of the emergency order Milwaukee County has moved from using Administrative Orders based on an Emergency Declaration to a series of procedures that reside within the Department of Human Resources. The analysis and monitoring of the CDC data detailed above, will drive the County’s COVID-19 mitigation actions.

In addition, other subjective measures that cannot be accounted for in pure data, as indicated by Milwaukee County’s Chief Health Policy Advisor, will be considered. These other measures may include, but are not necessarily limited to, national and international disease trends, hospital capacity concerns, and the emergence of new variants of concern.

To ensure alignment across mitigation procedures, a COVID-19 workgroup has been established. Working under the advisement of Dr. Ben Weston, Milwaukee County’s Chief Health Policy Advisor, this cross-functional team is comprised of employees from throughout the County. A member of this team has been designated to report monthly to the appropriate standing committee of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

The following COVID-19 procedures are currently in place.

Procedure Name	Procedure Document
Vaccine Mandate Procedure	 Vaccine Mandate Procedure v1.0_April ;
COVID-19 Health Screening Procedures	 COVID-19 Health Screening Procedures
Universal Face Mask Procedure	 Face Mask Procedure 1.0_Apr 2022.pdf
Procedures for Responding to Individuals with Confirmed Cases of, Symptoms of, or Exposure to COVID-19	 Procedures for Responding to Individu
Facility capacity limits	 Facility Capacity Limits Procedure 1.0_

The following table lists the former Administrative Orders which are no longer relevant or have content which is now contained in other pertinent areas.

Former COVID-19 Governance Document	Status
Social Distancing Admin Order	No longer needed, social distancing guidelines are detailed in the facility capacity procedure
Uses and Priority of Face Masks and Respirators	Reference document that provided additional details on various mask types. Masking guidelines are detail in the masking procedure
Telework Administrative Order	This administrative order has expired, and the County's Telework procedures are detailed in the Telework AMOP
State and County emergency proclamations	Expired, and removed from internal and external websites

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Mitigating the spread of COVID-19, and thus preventing further death and long-term negative health effects, is one of the most meaningful steps that Milwaukee County government can take in service of our Vision to become the healthiest county in Wisconsin. While we must still address the disparities and negative health outcomes that are the result of decades of policy choices, COVID-19 is a clear and present danger to the health and well-being of our constituents and employees. This framework not only works to address the health aspects of our strategic plan, but also ensures that Milwaukee County is able to continue the work that our departments are undertaking to advance our strategic plan and work towards our Vision by providing critical services to our residents.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

Fiscal Note Not Required

**TERMS**

N/A

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
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