


COVID-19 Community Level: Decision Making Resources

Make Activities Safe



With high levels of population immunity and the availability of new public health tools, we can feel safer knowing the risk of severe COVID-19 disease, hospitalization, and death have been greatly reduced. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed COVID-19 Community Levels to guide decisions about COVID-19 prevention measures based on county data. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) supports individuals and communities using COVID-19 Community Levels to inform their COVID-19 prevention strategies. Learn what the COVID-19 Community Level is in your county, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html.

	Low	Medium	High
Indoor Gatherings	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Limited impact on health care system and low levels of severe disease.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Some impact on health care system and more people are experiencing severe illness.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>High potential for health care system to be strained and high levels of severe illness.</i></p>
Traveling	<p>Masks are not necessary while gathering with family and friends. Make sure you remain up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations.</p>	<p>Masks are not necessary but you may wear one if it makes you more comfortable. Gather in spaces with good air ventilation and windows and doors when possible.</p>	<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination, status should wear a well-fitting mask in public indoor spaces. Practice social distancing and consider taking a COVID-19 self test before gathering.</p>
Medical appointments	<p>Wearing a well-fitting mask and respirator is recommended for everyone traveling on public transportation. Know the COVID-19 Community Level guidance of your destination.</p>	<p>Wearing a well-fitting mask or respirator is recommended on public transportation. Check destination's COVID-19 guidance and consider using a COVID-19 self test before travelling if you are not up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines. Take additional precautions if you are at high risk for severe disease.</p>	<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination, status should wear a well-fitting mask in public spaces. Practice social distancing and make sure you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines. Consider using a COVID-19 self test before travelling if you are not up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.</p>
Outdoor activities	<p>Masks are still required in health care facilities, medical, and dental offices. Bring a well-fitting mask to your appointment.</p>	<p>Masks are still required in health care facilities, medical, and dental offices. Bring a well-fitting mask to your appointment. Consider using a COVID-19 self-test before your appointment.</p>	<p>Masks are still required in health care facilities, medical, and dental offices. Bring a well-fitting mask to your appointment. Re-schedule if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.</p>
Outdoor activities	<p>You do not need to wear a mask when you are outside.</p>	<p>It is not necessary to wear a mask outside, but you may wear one if it makes you feel more comfortable. Consider using a COVID-19 self test if you are at high risk for severe disease and plan to be around other people.</p>	<p>It is recommended you mask while in close proximity to others and socially distance when possible. Make sure you remain up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines and take additional precautions if you are at high risk for disease.</p>

Source: page 21 of the [WI DHS COVID-19 Community Levels: Toolkit for Communicating Public Health Recommendations \(5/2022\)](#)