Fact Sheet

- **Wisconsin must come together to stop community spread of COVID-19.** Rates of COVID-19 infection are continuing to rise at an alarming pace in Wisconsin, with new records being set nearly daily, and state totals **exceeding 120,000 positive cases** and **1,300 deaths.**[1]

- Rates of COVID-19 related hospitalizations around the state are also increasing rapidly, with nearly **700 COVID-19 patients currently hospitalized,**[2] and some health systems nearing capacity. One Green Bay area hospital reported reaching **94% of its capacity** on September 29.[3] Particularly as the coming flu season approaches, this threatens to overwhelm healthcare systems around the state.

- Wisconsin has garnered negative national media attention for the state's high infection rates, and has even **been placed on quarantine lists** restricting incoming travel in various other states and cities, including New York[4] and Chicago.[5] Multiple Wisconsin cities have been **designated coronavirus "red zones"** by the White House.[6] This negative narrative **harms all Wisconsin businesses and industries** seeking to navigate the ongoing public health crisis.

- Protective measures like wearing a mask, social distancing, and hand washing have been **proven to help prevent the spread** of COVID-19.[7]

- Additional public awareness is urgently needed to communicate the seriousness of the COVID pandemic and the critical need for preventative measures in order to keep the state's health care system stable and accessible, protect the health and safety of essential workers, and prevent further shutdown of Wisconsin businesses and economic functions.

- If the current rate of spread is allowed to continue, parts of Wisconsin's health care system are **likely to be overwhelmed**, and additional shutdowns, new restrictions, and further significant damage to the state's economy are all but certain. **All of Wisconsin will experience negative impacts.**

- Wisconsin's most influential organizations and individuals **must work together** to use their influence to educate the public, pushing an urgent and immediate message that encourages residents to take preventative measures seriously to preserve access to our healthcare system and so we can all continue to **safely participate in Wisconsin's economy.**

- By working across party lines, industries, and geographic areas, Wisconsin's prominent community figures and organizations can help demonstrate the seriousness of the current public health crisis and show that employing preventative measures is **not a partisan or geographic issue.**

www.wha.org/stopthecovidspread

[1] https://www.wha.org/Covid-19Update
[2] https://www.wha.org/Covid-19Update
[3] https://www.postcrescent.com/in-depth/news/2020/10/01/wisconsin-coronavirus-hospitalizations-worry-staff-who-fear-surge/3574106001/
[4] https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/politics/albany/2020/09/29/ny-nj-quarantine-list-colorado-virginia-arizona/3570974001/
[5] https://www.chicagotribune.com/coronavirus/ct-coronavirus-chicago-wisconsin-quarantine-20200922-spxq6xu53bayzdmsrwxgwivtpe-story.html
[6] https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wisconsin-trump-plans-visit-battleground-amid-covid-19/story?id=73351622
[7] https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/protect.htm