



**Wisconsin
Cancer
Collaborative**
REDUCING THE BURDEN TOGETHER

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019
(COVID-19)



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Implications for Cancer Patients

April 9, 2020

Before we get started...

The **Wisconsin Cancer Collaborative** is a statewide coalition of **140 organizations** working together to reduce the burden of cancer **for everyone** in Wisconsin.

We connect our members with the **tools**, **support**, and **knowledge** they need to create healthier communities.

Wisconsin Cancer Plan 2015-2020



www.wicancer.org

Agenda

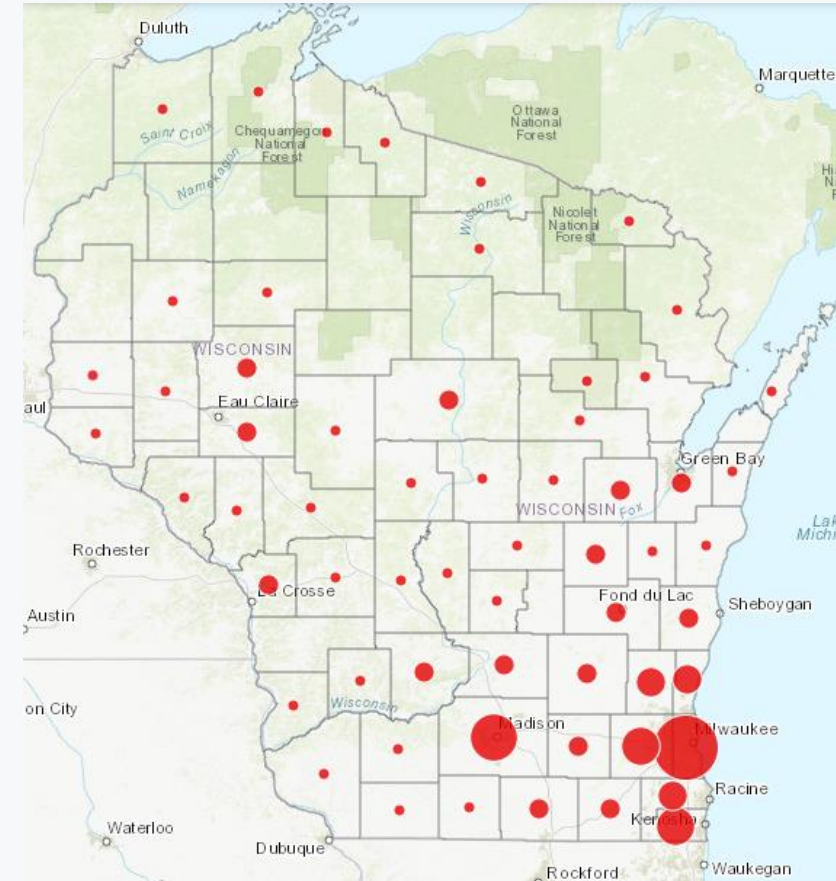
- *Wisconsin COVID-19 Update - DHS*
- *Cancer & COVID-19: What we know*
- *Resources*
- *Member Stories*
- *Questions*

Wisconsin Update

Dr. Mark Wegner, Chronic Disease Medical Advisor, Division of Public Health

As of April 8th, Wisconsin has:

- **30,115** negative test results
- **2,756** positive test results
- **790** hospitalizations
- **99** deaths



www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/

Wisconsin Update

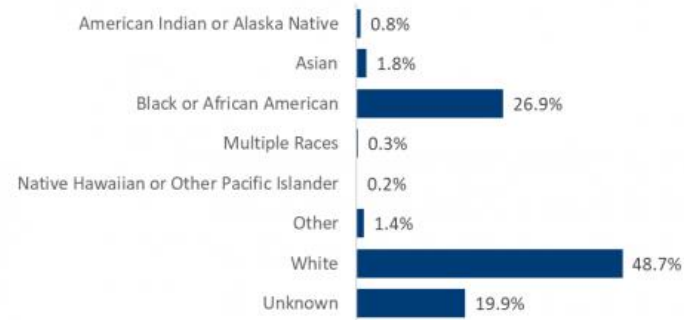
Dr. Mark Wegner, Chronic Disease Medical Advisor, Division of Public Health

COVID-19 disproportionately impacts certain communities in Wisconsin



Percent of COVID-19 cases by race

Updated: 4/8/2020 (n=2,756)



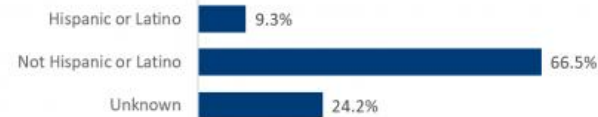
Percent of COVID-19 deaths by race

Updated: 4/8/2020 (n=99)



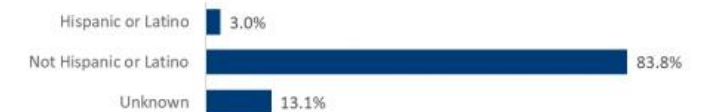
Percent of COVID-19 cases by ethnicity

Updated: 4/8/2020 (n=2,756)



Percent of COVID-19 deaths by ethnicity

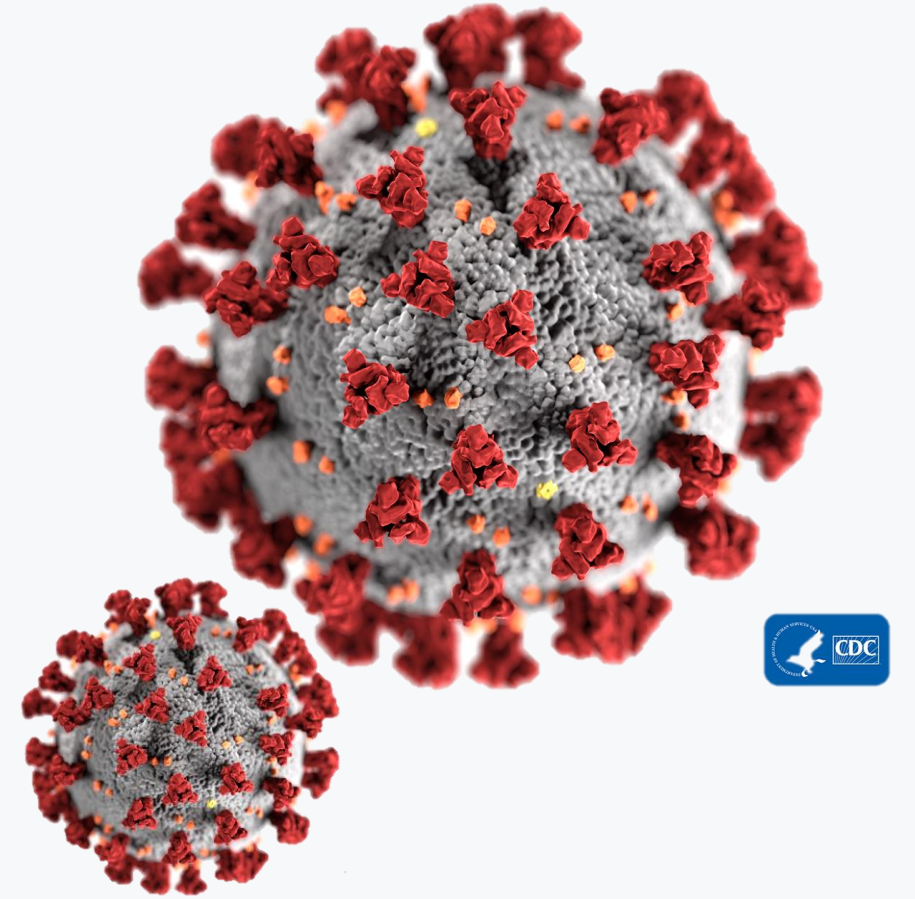
Updated: 4/8/2020 (n=99)



<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/data.htm>

What is COVID-19?

- A disease caused by a **new virus** that can cause **mild to severe** lung infections
- Can be **more severe** for individuals with **weakened immune systems**, like cancer patients
- May cause **more severe** infections than **other viral diseases**



How does COVID-19 spread?

1. Person-to-person:

- Between people who are in close contact (**within 6 feet**)
- Through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes

2. Spread from contact with contaminated surfaces or objects:

- May be possible to contract virus by touching a contaminated surface or object that has the virus on it, then touching own mouth, nose, or eyes (***though not thought to be the main way of transmission***)



What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Emergency Warning Signs:

- *Persistent chest pain or pressure*
- *New confusion or inability to arouse*
- *Bluish lips or face*

Cancer patients should monitor for symptoms & call their doctor if symptoms of COVID-19 appear. If emergency warning signs appear, get medical attention immediately.



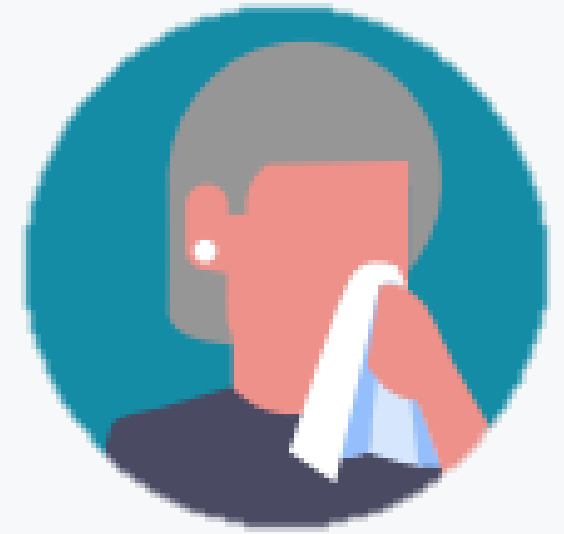
Who's at greatest risk for severe illness?

- **Older adults (>65 years)**
- **People have serious underlying medical conditions like:**
 - Heart disease
 - Diabetes
 - Lung disease
- **People who are immunocompromised** (including cancer treatment)
- **People who smoke and or vape** also thought to be at greater risk



Cancer Patients and COVID-19 Risk

- Currently we have **limited data** on immunosuppressed populations and **COVID-19 outcomes**
- One early [report¹](#) out of China indicates **cancer patients** (compared to patients without cancer) infected with COVID-19 are at a **3.5 times higher risk** of:
 - Mechanical ventilation
 - ICU admission or
 - Death
- A recent preprint [study²](#) (meaning it has not yet been peer reviewed) found:
 - “Patients with **blood cancer**, **lung cancer**, and **metastatic cancer** demonstrated a higher incidence of severe events compared to patients without cancer. In addition, patients who underwent **immunotherapy** or **cancer surgery** had higher death rates and higher chances of having critical symptoms.”



What should cancer patients do to protect themselves?

The **best remedy** for COVID-19 is
prevention.

Social distancing is key.



What should cancer patients & survivors do to protect themselves?

CDC recommends:

- Avoiding close contact with others
- Keeping hands clean
- Making sure your health care team is also taking steps to protect you from exposures.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces
- Avoiding non-essential travel
- ***No specific guidance on mask use in cancer patients, though CDC recommends using a mask if you are sick
 - ****CDC now advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.*



Source: [CDC](#)

What should cancer patients and survivors do to prepare for COVID-19?

CDC recommends taking these steps:

- Take actions to **reduce your risk** of getting sick
- Have **supplies** on hand
- Take **everyday precautions**
- Have a **plan** for if you get sick
 - Consult with your HCP for more info about COVID-19
 - Determine who can care for you if your caregiver gets sick
 - Have a health care power of attorney completed



What Caregivers, Family Members, and Others Need to Know

- Watch out for **symptoms of infection**
- **Clean hands often**
- **Avoid other people** as much as possible (social distancing).
- If a **caregiver becomes ill**:
 - Immediately separate yourself from the cancer patient and if possible, stay away from the cancer patient's home.
 - If you must remain in the same household, isolate yourself in a separate room, if possible with a separate bathroom.
 - Make arrangements for someone else to care for the cancer patient.



What are Cancer Centers Doing?

- **In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many major cancer centers are:**
 - Implementing policies such as screening all patients, staff, and providers for COVID-19 symptoms and travel history
 - Minimizing follow-up visits and admissions
 - Training staff in using personal protective equipment
 - Engaging in telehealth and WebEx meetings
 - Providing COVID-19 hotline and response teams
 - Placing restrictions on employee business travel
- ***American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) further recommends home collection of routine laboratory samples and home infusion of chemotherapy drugs whenever possible***



Special considerations for cancer patients in treatment

- Patients should discuss with their doctor the benefits and risks of continuing, reducing, or delaying treatment.
- Discuss goals of care and tailor therapy based on those
- Patients can:
 - Inquire about ability to be on an oral chemotherapy regimen, if possible
 - Inquire about home lab monitoring
 - Minimize frequency of visits however possible (For example, a port may be flushed less frequently)



Implications Across the Cancer Care Continuum

Bottom line, we should expect that all aspects of the Cancer Care Continuum will be impacted by COVID-19

Risk Assessment

- In-person visits rescheduled, delayed, or cancelled

Prevention

People may be less likely to engage in risk reduction behaviors

Delays/cancellations of individuals receiving vaccines, like HPV

Early Diagnosis

- Delayed or postponed screening
- Down the road, will we see more late state diagnoses?



Treatment

- ASCO recommends home collection of routine laboratory samples and home infusion of chemotherapy drugs whenever possible²
- Evidence suggests aggressive measures should be taken for patients to remain at home infection at treatment center¹

Survivorship

- Delays in follow-up care such as cancer screenings, which may impact future prognosis
- People may be less likely to engage in risk reduction behaviors

End-of-Life Care

- Isolation/need to quarantine, meaning loved ones may not be allowed around
- End-of-life conversations difficult to hold via “telemedicine”



1. Yu J, Ouyang W, Chua MLK, Xie C. SARS-CoV-2 Transmission in Patients With Cancer at a Tertiary Care Hospital in Wuhan, China. *JAMA Oncol.* Published online March 25, 2020. doi:10.1001/jamaoncol.2020.0980

2. COVID-19 and Cancer: Lessons From a Pooled Meta-Analysis. Aakash Desai, Sonali Sachdeva, Tarang Parekh, and Rupak Desai. *JCO Global Oncology* 2020 :6, 557-559

Policy Update – COVID-19

- Response by the State of Wisconsin
- Federal Administrative Actions
- New Laws
 - Phase I
 - Phase II
 - Phase III

H.R.6201 - Families First Coronavirus Response Act

116th Congress (2019-2020) | Get alerts

LAW Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Rep. Lowey, Nita M. \[D-NY-17\]](#) (Introduced 03/11/2020)
Committees: House - Appropriations; Budget; Ways and Means
Latest Action (modified): 03/18/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-127. ([All Actions](#))
Roll Call Votes: There have been [5 roll call votes](#)

Tracker:

Introduced > Passed House > Passed Senate > To President > **Became Law**

Member Experience

How are WI Cancer Collaborative members handling COVID-19?

- How are WI Cancer Collaborative members handling COVID-19?
- What resources are missing that we could possibly help develop or search for?
- When the pandemic subsides, what support do you all anticipate needing as work with community members on reducing cancer risk, getting community members screened, reducing anxiety about contracting COVID-19 when returning for in-person cancer treatment appointments, or other considerations that come to mind?

Thank you!

QUESTIONS?

Resources

- Liang W, Guan W, Chen R, et al: Cancer patients in SARS-CoV-2 infection: A nationwide analysis in China. [Lancet Oncol. February 14, 2020 \(early release online\)](#).
- Yu J, Ouyang W, Chua MLK, Xie C. SARS-CoV-2 Transmission in Patients With Cancer at a Tertiary Care Hospital in Wuhan, China. *JAMA Oncol*. Published online March 25, 2020. doi:10.1001/jamaoncol.2020.0980. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaoncology/fullarticle/2763673>
- Ueda, M., Martins, R., Hendrie, P. C., McDonnell, T., Crews, J. R., Wong, T. L., McCreery, B., Jagels, B., Crane, A., Byrd, D. R., Pergam, S. A., Davidson, N. E., Liu, C., & Stewart, F. (2020). Managing Cancer Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Agility and Collaboration Toward a Common Goal, *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network J Natl Compr Canc Netw*, , 1-4. <https://jnccn.org/view/journals/jnccn/aop/article-10.6004-jnccn.2020.7560/article-10.6004-jnccn.2020.7560.xml>
- Dai, Meng-Yuan and Liu, Dianbo and Liu, Miao and Zhou, Fu-Xiang and Li, Gui-Ling and Chen, Zhen and Zhang, Zhi-An and You, Hua and Wu, Meng and Zhen, Qi-Chao and Xiong, Yong and Xiong, Hui-Hua and Wang, Chun and Chen, Chang-Chun and Xiong, Fei and Zhang, Yan and Peng, Ya-Qin and Ge, Si-Ping and Zhen, Bo and Yu, Ting-Ting and Wang, Ling and Wang, Hua and Liu, Yu and Chen, Ye-Shan and Mei, Jun-Hua and Gao, Xiao-Jia and Li, Zhu-Yan and Gan, Li-Juan and He, Can and Li, Zhen and Shi, Yu-Ying and Qi, Yu-Wen and Yang, Jing and Tenen, Daniel G. and Chai, Li and Mucci, Lorelei Ann and Santillana, Mauricio and Cai, Hong-Bing, Patients with Cancer Appear More Vulnerable to SARS-CoV-2: A Multi-Center Study During the COVID-19 Outbreak (3/17/2020). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3558017>

Resources Continued

- **American Cancer Society:**
 - [Common Questions About the New Coronavirus Outbreak](#)
- **American Society of Clinical Oncology:**
 - [ASCO Coronavirus Resources](#)
 - [COVID-19 Clinical Oncology Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
 - [Cancer Care in the Time of COVID-19](#)
 - [Mitigating the Spread of COVID-19 and Its Impact on Cancer: How Cancer Centers Are Preparing for the Coronavirus](#)
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:**
 - [Staying Well While Staying at Home: A Guide for Cancer Patients and their Caregivers and Family Members](#)
 - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
 - [Best Remedy for COVID-19 Is Prevention](#)
 - [Healthcare Professionals: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#)
 - [Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings, Especially in Areas of Significant Community-Based Transmission](#)
- **National Health Institute:**
 - [Coronavirus: What People with Cancer Should Know](#)
 - [COVID-19: Potential Implications for Individuals with Substance Use Disorders](#)
- **National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship**
 - [Coronavirus and Cancer Resources for Survivors](#)
- **National Comprehensive Cancer Network:**
 - [NCCN: How to Manage Cancer Care during COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- **UW-Health:**
 - [Precautions for Cancer Patients](#)

May Networking Webinar - Registration Open!

“Cancer Control Efforts in our New World”

Let's focus on the cancer control efforts in our new world with COVID-19. How are organizations adjusting and still making an impact? What can we do to make sure people are still getting screened, patients are still going to appointments, and how has cancer healthcare changed with COVID-19?

Register here: <https://wicancer.org/events/webinars/>



10:00-11:00

Remember to take care of yourself.

"Yet people with cancer are perhaps better prepared than many to face an existential threat. We've developed resilience and learned to live in the here and now.

As our society faces an illness that is serious and devastating, we, cancer patients, can share a few lessons from dealing with our infirmities. With support and care, you can find the strength to carry on. You keep going, and you give it your best shot. And always try to remember: Today is a gift."

~Morhaf Al Achkar is a practicing family physician and a faculty member at the University of Washington. He is the author of [Roads to Meaning and Resilience with Cancer](#).