



Wauwatosa
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2020

*Annual
Report*

7725 W. North Ave.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213



www.wauwatosa.net
414-479-8939

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FIND FREE COVID-19 TEST SITES
TEXT HEALTHINFO
TO 898-211








Auto-Text relay will provide testing sites near you.
 To speak with a Community Resource Specialist, call 211.

IMPACT
 Changing Lives. For Good.

2-1-1
 IMPACT 2-1-1
 Get Connected. Get Help.™

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE YOUR HEALTH

The conditions in which you live, learn, work and age affect your health. Social determinants such as these can influence your lifelong health and well-being.

HOUSING 	INCARCERATION The incarceration rate in the U.S. grew by more than 220% between 1980 and 2014, though crime rates have fallen.	POVERTY 
HEALTHY FOOD 6.5 million children live in low-income neighborhoods that are more than a mile from a supermarket.	GRADUATION 	HEALTH COVERAGE More than 89% of U.S. adults had health coverage in 2014. But 33 million Americans still lacked insurance.
LITERACY 	ENVIRONMENT 	ACCESS TO CARE 
ACCESS TO CARE 	ACCESS TO CARE More than 89% of U.S. adults had health coverage in 2014. But 33 million Americans still lacked insurance.	

The NATION'S HEALTH
A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
www.thenationshealth.org/sdoh

COVID-19

Tips for Staying Safe

WISCONSIN

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ABSENTEE

Three Reasons to Vote Absentee:

- It's free! Your ballot is mailed to you with a postage-paid return envelope.
- It's safe. Keeps you safe from the threat of COVID-19.
- No standing in line. Your ballot is sent and returned through the mail.

What happens after you request an absentee ballot?

Your ballot will arrive about 7 weeks after your request. You can track it on myvote.wis.gov

If you have already completed an absentee request, your ballot will arrive shortly. You can confirm at myvote.wis.gov

Need Help?

Staff and Volunteers at Hart Park Senior Center are available to help you:

- Register to Vote
- Request your Absentee Ballot
- Provide a Witness Signature for your Absentee Ballot

Schedule an Appointment!

7300 W Chestnut St.
 Masks Required
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 20 minute slots between 9:00-11:00am
 Call 414-471-8495 ext. 2

REPORT SYMPTOMS Let staff know how you feel Some symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, pressure in the chest, and confusion.	WASH YOUR HANDS Don't forget the soap Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds. After coming into contact with frequently touched surfaces, such as doorknobs and tables, make sure to wash your hands before touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
STRESS AND COPING Take care of your body Continue taking your prescribed medication, eat healthy, and drink enough water. Get plenty of sleep. Avoid alcohol and drugs.	PERSONAL HYGIENE Don't spread germs Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Don't forget to wash your hands afterward.
SOCIAL DISTANCING Keep a personal radius Stay at least six feet away from other people, including in sleeping areas. When sleeping, make sure you are head-to-toe with those around you.	LIMIT NONESSENTIAL OUTINGS Consider others When you are out and about, you could pick up germs that could be dangerous to those around you and could make them sick.

Easy Steps to Fall-Proof Your Home:

Kitchen

Move your most commonly used items within reach. Put the things you use daily on the lowest shelves to help avoid the use of step stools or chairs. Plan ahead for special needs. Ask a loved one for help every few months to rotate seasonal items to within reach.

Replace area rugs with rubber backed rugs. Area rugs are a trip hazard. If you prefer a mat on the floor near the sink or stove, make sure it is placed securely on the floor and has a heavy-backed rubber bottom so it stays in place.

Clean up spills immediately. Keep a hand towel within easy reach to help you clean up spills easily and quickly.

GET STARTED ON FALL PROOFING YOUR HOME!

w.h.a. Wisconsin Health Association

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
 6/20/20 03/2/2020
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19

COVID-19: SOCIAL DISTANCING IN PUBLIC PARKS AND TRAILS

Do not use parks or trails if you are exhibiting symptoms.

Share the trail and warn other trail users of your presence and as you pass.

Be prepared for limited access to public restrooms or water fountains.

Follow CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to visiting parks or trails.

Observe CDC's minimum recommended social distancing of 6' from other persons at all times.

INRPA Wisconsin Recreation and Trails Association
 Around everyone deserves a great park

NO FLU for YOU

Protect Yourself.
 Protect Others.
GET A FLU SHOT!

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

I am pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Health and staff at Wauwatosa Health Department.

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to shift away from the normal work done by our health department to focus almost entirely on COVID-19 response. Our team worked tirelessly over the past year to conduct follow up on disease investigations, manage contact tracing efforts, provide guidance on facility exposures, work with community partners on safety plans, deliver timely and accurate COVID-19 information to the community, and plan for vaccine rollout.

As we begin to transition out of COVID-19 response in 2021, we will slowly and intentionally begin to reintroduce work on our Community Health Improvement Plan, Strategic Plan, community health programming, health equity initiatives, and all the other health department work we haven't been able to focus on in the last year. These pieces are critical to our work in public health and although they may look different post-pandemic, they will remain a priority as we move forward.

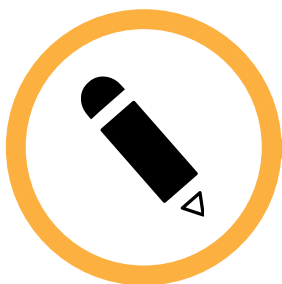
Thank you to the Wauwatosa Board of Health, City Administration, the Common Council, our volunteers, and each Health Department employee for their continued dedication and support of the important work we do every day to ensure all residents and visitors to Wauwatosa are happy, healthy, and safe.

Laura Stephens

Laura Stephens, MPH

City of Wauwatosa Health Officer & Wauwatosa Health Department Director

CORE FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH



ASSESSMENT

Assess the health needs of the community, investigate the occurrence of health hazards and analyze the determinants of identified health needs.



POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Advocate for public health, prioritize health needs and plan and develop policies to address health needs.



ASSURANCE

Manage resources and develop organizational structure, implement programs, evaluate programs, and inform and educate the public.

Wauwatosa Health Department Overview

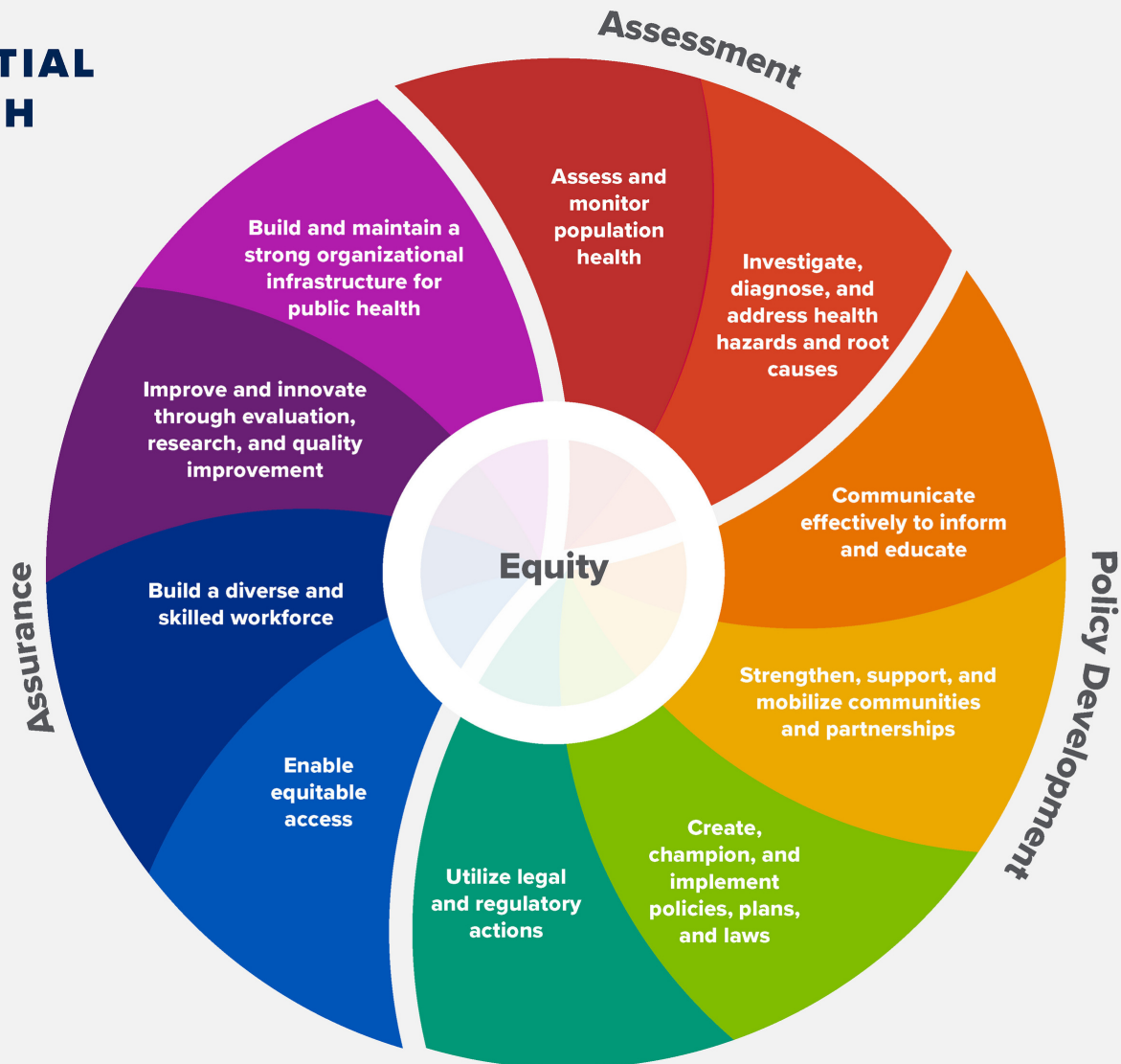
According to Wisconsin Statute Chapter 251.02(2), counties with a population greater than 500,000 must establish a local health department (LHD). Therefore, there is no county level health department for Milwaukee County, but rather 12 LHDs that are maintained at the municipal level.

The City of Wauwatosa Health Department (WHD) is a Level 3 health department, the highest level of health department in the state. Level 3 health departments must provide additional programs and services to their community, going above and beyond the Ten Essential Services for Public Health Departments.

THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities. To achieve optimal health for all, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, systems, and services that enable good health and seek to remove obstacles and systemic and structural barriers, such as poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and other forms of oppression, that have resulted in health inequities. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve good health and well-being.



Created 2020

Mission Statement

To protect, promote and assure conditions for the health and safety of all residents and visitors of Wauwatosa through the assessment of needs, assisting in the development of public health policies, and the provision of accessible, quality services.

Board of Health Members

Christine Shaw, PhD, APRN; Chair

Cheryl Berdan, Alderperson (January-April 2020)

Michael Walsh, Alderperson (Appointed May 2020)

Jennifer Cicero, MSW, LCSW; Member

John Dunn, MD; Member

Leslie Martin, MD; Member

Health Department Administration

Laura Conklin, MPH - Health Officer and Director (resigned November 2020)

Laura Stephens, MPH - Public Health Manager/Interim Health Officer

Paige Bernau, RN, BSN - Nursing Manager

Lisa Simonds - Administrative Support

Community Health Education Division

Kari Allison - Public Health Specialist

Carmen Pangilinan, MSW, APSW - Public Health Specialist

Environmental Health Division

Andy Budde, MS, RS - Sanitarian

Meghan Spredemann, REHS, RS - Sanitarian

Courtney Ameen, Administrative Support Specialist

Public Health Nursing Division

Sue Javoroski, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Ericka King, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Cindi Lambert, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Tim Maher, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Emily Tianen, RN, BSN, CLC - Public Health Nurse



Public Health Nursing Division



- 6205 referrals made to Public Health Nurses.
- 358% increase in number of referrals compared to 2019.

What do public health nurses do?

The goal of public health nursing is to protect the health and safety of the people in our communities.

How do they do this?

Nurses work with individuals, groups, families and communities, especially those who are at increased risk of illness, injury, premature death and disability by:

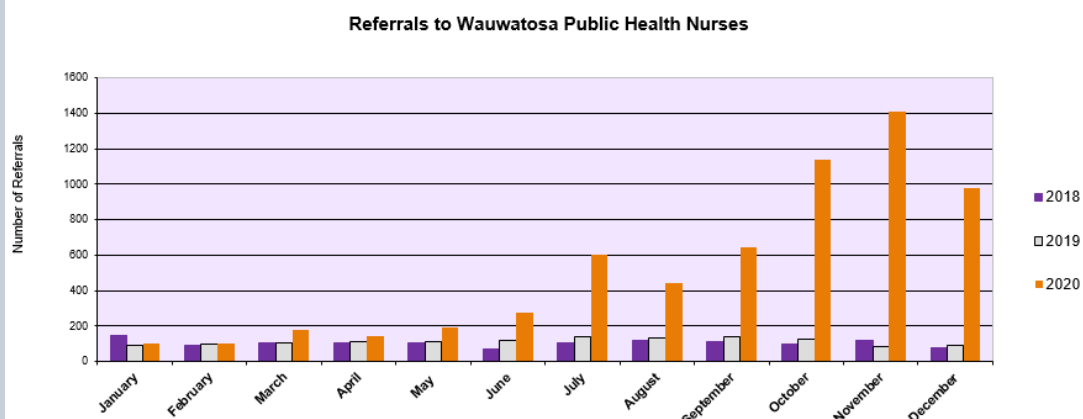
- Taking action to identify and activate resources, services and policies that protect health.
- Responding to current and emerging threats to the public's health and safety.
- Applying nursing and public health principles to assess, develop, implement, and evaluate care plans and health programs related to health promotion, disease prevention, and health protection services for individuals, families and the community. (Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter DHS 139)

Public Health Focuses on Prevention - some of our programs and services include:

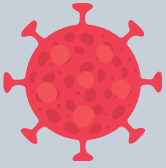
- Adult Health Clinic
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Maternal Child Health services
- Outbreak investigations
- Communicable Disease Investigations
- Immunizations

2020 Public Health Nurse Referral Trends

Referrals to Wauwatosa Public Health Nurses increased exponentially in 2020 due to COVID-19. In order to manage these COVID-19 cases, many of the other Public Health Nursing programs and services had to be suspended.



Communicable Disease and Surveillance



- 6020 communicable disease investigations.
- COVID-19 was the most frequently reported, which is consistent with local and national trends.

What is a Communicable Disease?

A communicable disease (CD), also known as an infectious disease, is an illness or condition that is transmitted through direct contact with an infected person or animal.

Why does WHD monitor communicable disease?

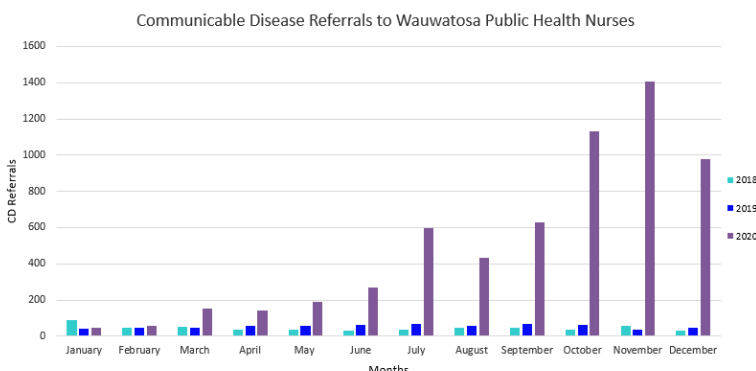
Wisconsin State Statute 252.03 states that a local health department "upon the appearance of any communicable disease in his or her territory shall immediately investigate all circumstances and do what is reasonable for the prevention and suppression of disease".

Communicable disease management accounts for a large portion of the health department's work hours. It requires detailed follow up to ensure protection of the public and is multi-faceted. Management may include investigation, inspection, laboratory collection, isolation and/or the provision of medications or vaccinations.

2020 Top Five Communicable Diseases*

1. COVID-19	5539
2. Chlamydia	152
3. Gonorrhea	71
4. Hepatitis C	51
5. Latent Tuberculosis	39

Communicable Disease Trends By Month



Communicable Disease Trends By Year



The COVID-19 pandemic caused communicable disease investigations to increase from 648 in 2019 to 6020 in 2020; an 829% increase.

*Due to COVID-19, capacity to follow up on other communicable diseases was severely limited and suspended in some cases.

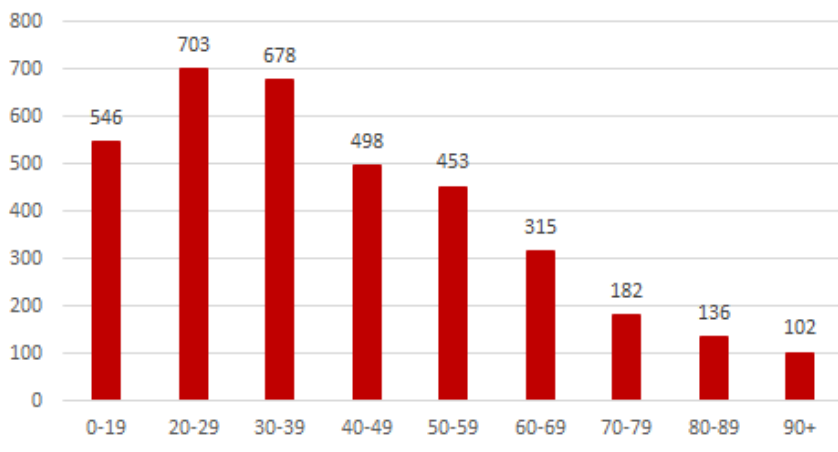
COVID-19 in Wauwatosha*



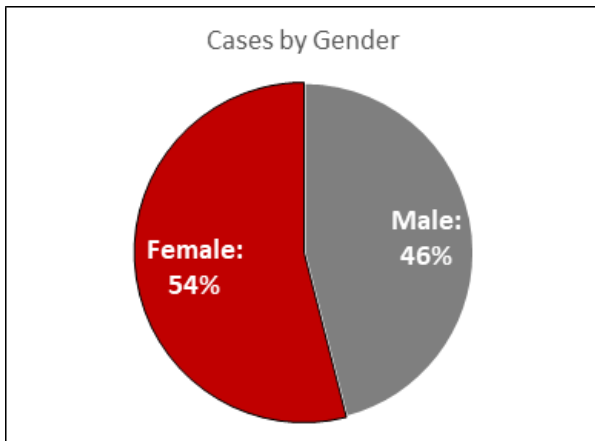
Total cases: 3,661
 Total hospitalizations: 99
 Total deaths: 64

*As of December 31, 2020

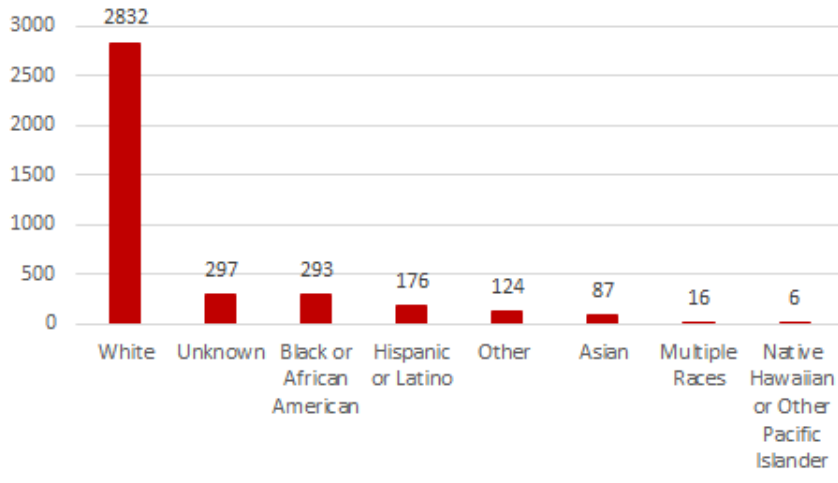
COVID-19 Cases by Age



Cases by Gender



COVID-19 Positive cases by Race/Ethnicity



2020 brought COVID-19 and with it, enormous challenges for all, including the Wauwatosha Health Department. As a result of the severity of the pandemic, many of the Department's typical programs and services had to be paused in order to manage COVID-19 cases.

These charts depict cases of COVID-19 in Wauwatosha residents based upon age, gender and race/ethnicity.

For comparison, data from the US Census 2019 City of Wauwatosha Population Estimates are provided below.

Female persons: 51.8%
 Male persons: 48.2%

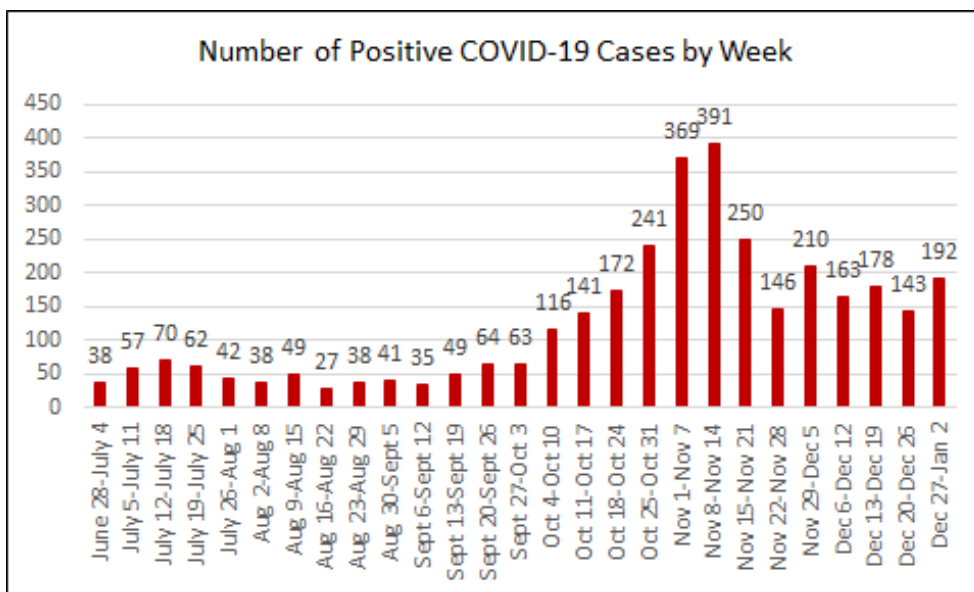
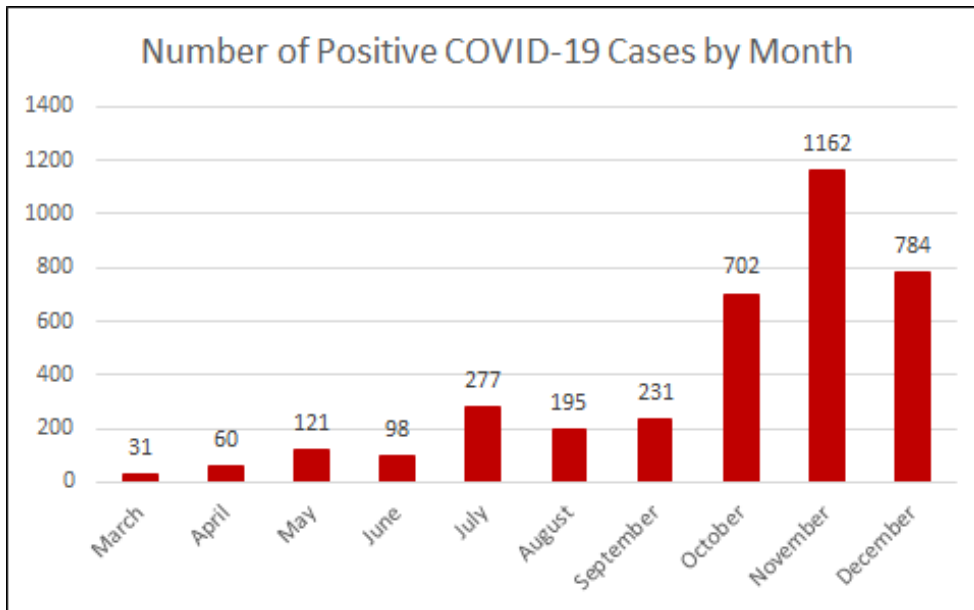
Total population: 48,118

Persons under 5 years: 7.3%
 Persons under 18 years: 22%
 Persons 65 years and older: 17%

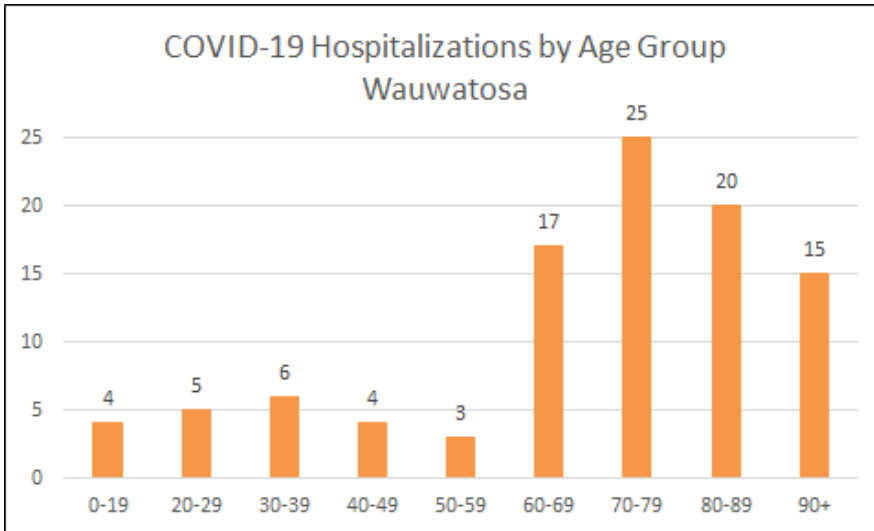
White: 86.2%
 Black or African American: 5.3%
 American Indian and Alaska Native: 0.5%
 Asian: 4.1%
 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: 0%
 Two or more races: 3.3%
 Hispanic: 2.9%

COVID-19 in Wauwatosa

Cases of COVID-19 in Wauwatosa in 2020 closely mirrored statewide and national trends with large increases in the number of positive cases seen in July and again starting in October through the end of 2020.

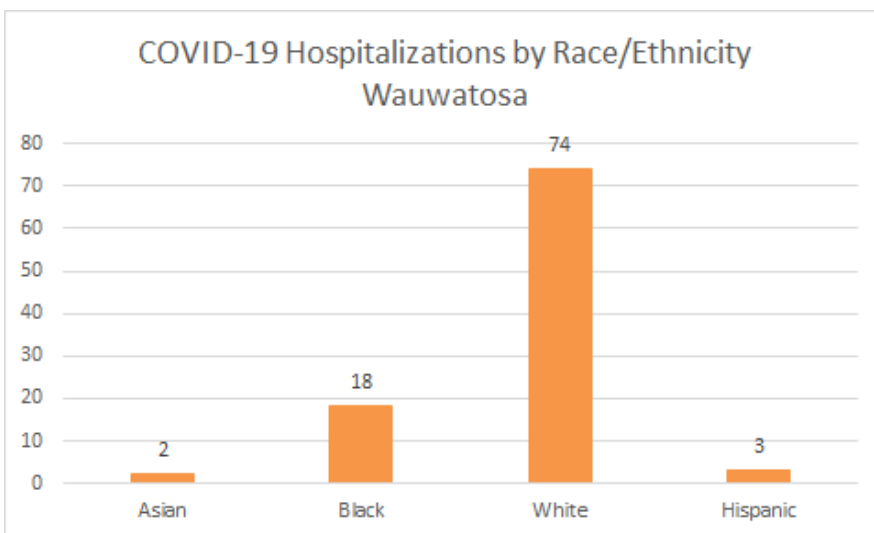


COVID-19 in Wauwatosa: Hospitalizations March 2020-December 31, 2020



99 Wauwatosa residents were hospitalized as a result of COVID-19 between the months of March 2020 and December 31, 2020. As seen nationally, older adults made up a large percentage of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Wauwatosa.

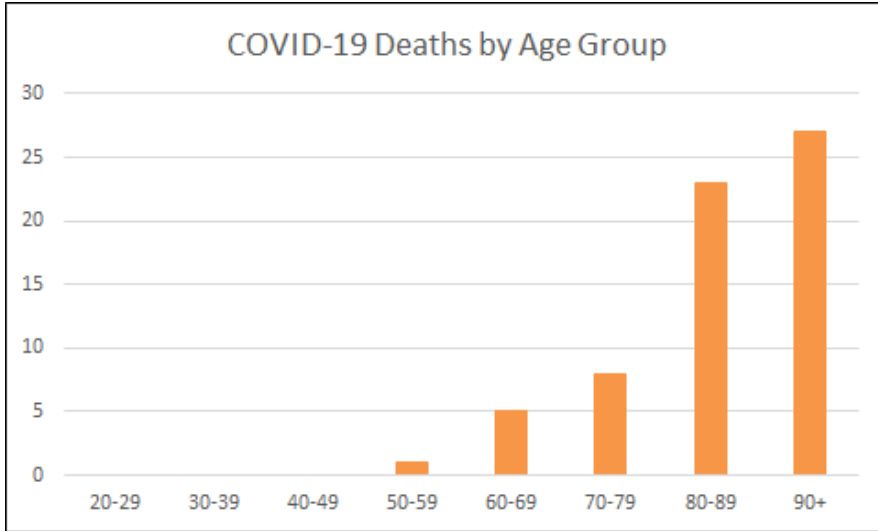
- 15% aged 90+
- 20% aged 80-89
- 25% aged 70-79
- 17% aged 60-69
- 3% aged 50-59
- 4% aged 40-49
- 6% aged 30-39
- 5% aged 20-29
- 4% aged 0-19



Despite making up only 5% of the total population of Wauwatosa, 18% of hospitalized Wauwatosans were Black.

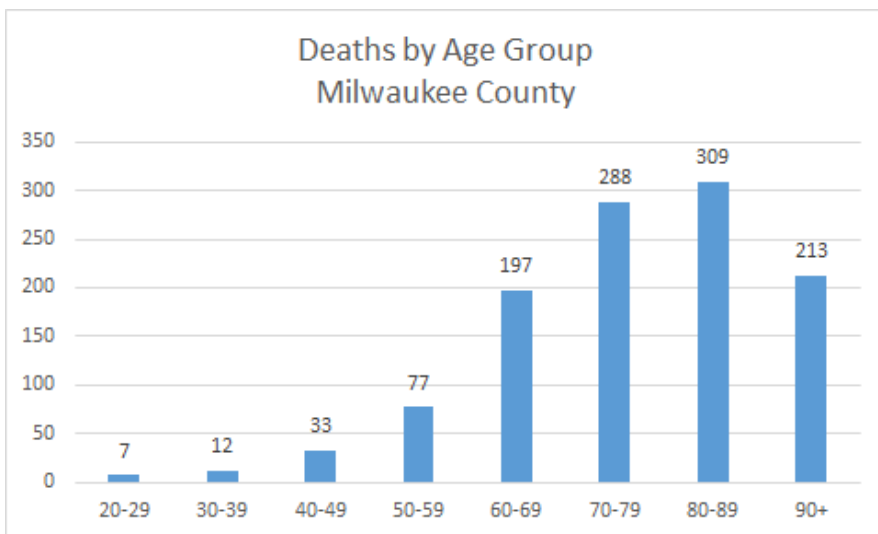
- 75% White
- 18% Black
- 3% Hispanic
- 3% Asian

**COVID-19 in Wauwatosa:
Deaths by age
March 2020-December 31, 2020**



64 Wauwatosa residents died as a result of COVID-19 between the months of March 2020 and December 31, 2020. As seen nationally, older adults made up a large percentage of COVID-19 deaths in Wauwatosa.

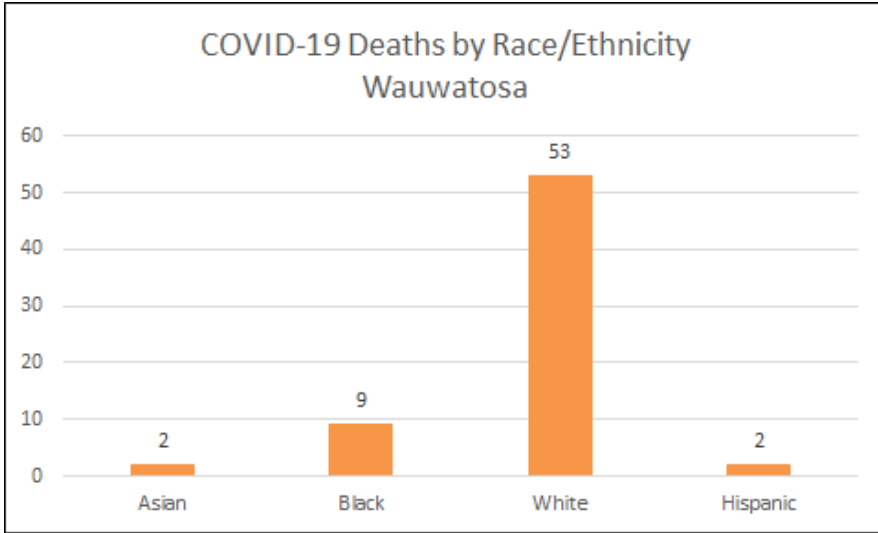
- 42% aged 90+
- 36% aged 80-89
- 13% aged 70-79
- 8% aged 60-69
- 2% aged 50-59



During the same timeframe, Milwaukee County as a whole reported 1136 deaths as a result of COVID-19.

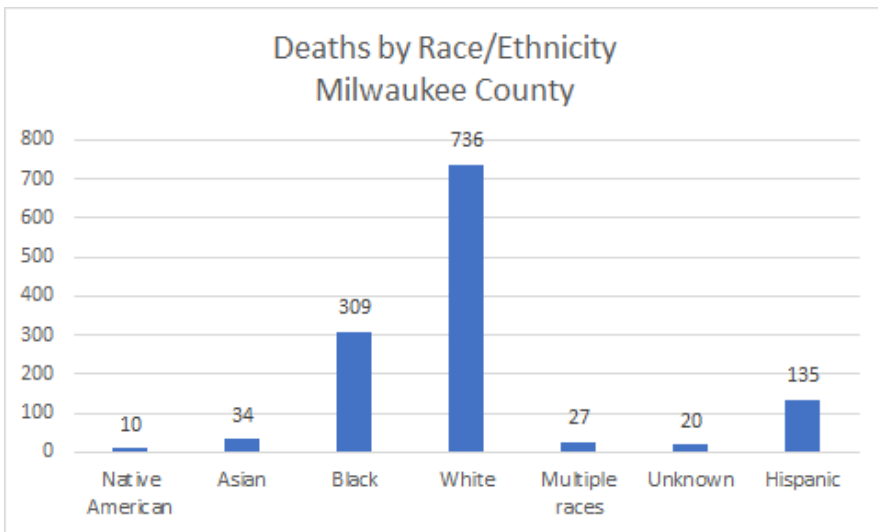
- 19% aged 90+
- 27% aged 80-89
- 25% aged 70-79
- 17% aged 60-69
- 7% aged 50-59
- 3% aged 40-49
- 1% aged 30-39
- >1% aged 20-29

**COVID-19 in Wauwatosa:
Deaths by race
March 2020-December 31, 2020**



64 Wauwatosa residents died as a result of COVID-19 between the months of March 2020 and December 31, 2020. As with hospitalizations, we see an over-representation of deaths among Black residents.

- 83% White
- 14% Black
- 3% Asian
- 3% Hispanic



During the same timeframe, Milwaukee County as a whole reported 1136 deaths as a result of COVID-19.

- 65% White
- 27% Black
- 12% Hispanic
- 3% Asian
- 2% Multiple Races
- 2% Unknown
- >1% Native American

Immunization Program



Immunizations are one of the greatest public health achievements of the 20th century. The WHD maintains an immunization program to prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases, which are diseases for which an effective vaccine is available.

What immunization services does WHD offer?

WHD typically offers three immunization clinics per month to Wauwatosa residents, mass flu vaccine clinics at City Hall and off-site locations, and immunization and influenza awareness to all parents of newborns.

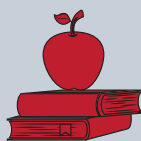
In 2020, these services were among those that needed to be paused in order to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

What are the requirements for school aged children?

The State of Wisconsin requires all students to meet minimum required immunizations for each age/grade level. However, these requirements can be waived for health, religious or personal conviction reasons.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/regs.htm>

Health Departments in Wisconsin are required to collect and analyze the immunization status of all students attending public and private schools within their jurisdiction. In 2020, Wauwatosa's overall vaccination rate of 94.3% is well above the National Benchmark of 90% laid out in Healthy People 2020.



2020 School Immunization Numbers

94.3% Overall Rate

95.8% Private School Rate

93.9% Public School Rate

The WHD also monitors the immunization completion rates of two year olds. In order to be considered up to date by the age of two, a child must have received all of the following immunizations: 4 diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTaP), 3 Polio, 1 Measels-Mumps-Rubella (MMR), 3 Haemophilus type B (HiB), 3 Hepatitis B, 3 Rotavirus, 2 Hepatitis A, and 1 Varicella.

WHD in the Community

Typically all WHD staff participate in community outreach activities such as health fairs, community education and community-wide coalitions and committees. Early in 2020 a new blood pressure clinic was piloted at Hart Park Senior Center. Staffed by public health specialists, this clinic provided blood pressure monitoring as well as information about community resources of interest to older adults. However, all in-person opportunities were cut short in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Online education and coalition meetings replaced in-person opportunities in 2020. Staff provided online education about COVID-19 and falls prevention via social media. Late in 2020, WHD partnered with the Wisconsin Institute for Health Aging to provide flu prevention and vaccination information via social media, website and newsletters.

Community Education

- Online Falls Prevention Series
- Online COVID-19 Education
- Online Flu Vaccine Campaign
- Health Equity presentation in collaboration with Tosa Together
- Voting assistance program

Coalition and Committee Memberships

- Prevent Suicide Greater Milwaukee
- Wauwatosa Senior Commission
- Milwaukee COVID response colleges/universities
- Milwaukee Restart: Education and Youth Sports
- Milwaukee County Falls Prevention Coalition



Environmental Health Division

Environmental health is defined as the study of all physical, chemical and biological factors external to a person that can impact health. WHD has two Registered Sanitarians (RS) who respond to nuisance, human health hazard, lead, and food establishment complaints. Due to COVID-19, our Sanitarians had to pause their regular duties in order to assist with the pandemic response.

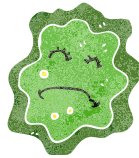
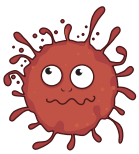
Nuisances

According to City ordinance, a nuisance is "whatever is dangerous, unsanitary, or unwholesome to human life or health." The WHD conducted **58** nuisance inspections in 2020.



Top Five Nuisance Reports*

Rats	26
Dog Dirt	9
Ground Feeding	4
Heat	4
Other	4



Animal Bites and Rabies Control

Regulation of Animals Program

- Protects residents from injury and illness associated with animal bites.
- Investigation of all bites from domestic, stray, and wild animals.
- Rabies determinations are critical because although very rare, rabies is almost 100% fatal if left untreated.

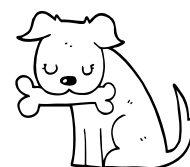


Total Complaints 46*

Dog	23
Bat	16
Cat	7

Wauwatosa Municipal Code

Includes authority to quarantine, prohibit or limit dangerous and vicious animals.



*Represents partial year data due to pandemic

Human Health Hazards (HHH)

According to City ordinance, HHHs are a "substance, activity, or condition that is known to have potential to cause acute or chronic illness or death; to generate or spread infectious diseases, or otherwise affect the health of the public if the exposure or condition is not abated."

Examples include:

- Lead exposure
- Hazardous material exposure
- Hoarding



Lead

Many houses and apartments built before 1978 have paint that contains lead. Over 98% of the homes in Wauwatosa were built before 1978.

Lead from paint can pose serious health hazards if not taken care of.

Lead's effects on children are worse as it is absorbed by their bodies more easily. A child's developing nervous system is more easily harmed by lead.

WHD has certified lead risk assessors to answer questions regarding lead hazards, safe remodeling practices, and children's health issues related to lead. Staff conduct environmental assessments in homes and work with the families to monitor children's health and prevent future lead poisonings.

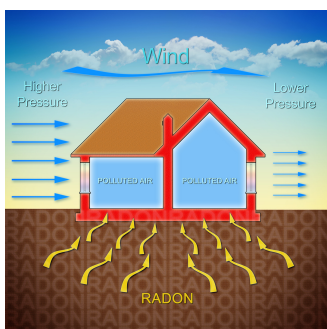
In 2020, WHD continued providing water test kits for residents with children under the age of 6 as well as pregnant women.

Of the 21 test kits that were distributed,
0 came back with elevated levels of lead in water.

Radon

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas that you can't see, smell, or taste, but may be in your home. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon has been found in all Wauwatosa zip codes. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem. Even very high levels can be reduced to acceptable levels. Testing is the only way to know if there is a radon risk.

In 2020, WHD sold 13 Radon test kits to Wauwatosa residents.

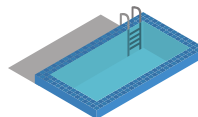
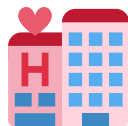


Food Inspection Program

WHD utilizes the Wisconsin Division of Health Services and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection inspection programs to prevent transmission of infectious diseases via food and food service operations from licensed establishments.

WHD inspected over 450 city and state licensed establishments in 2019 in order to ensure adherence to federal, state, and local codes and safety guidelines. In 2020, inspections were forced to be put on hold throughout much of the COVID-19 pandemic. The establishments that are typically inspected at least annually include:

- Restaurants and retail food establishments
- Farmers Markets
- Temporary food events
- Hotels/motels
- Public swimming pools
- Vending machines and micro markets
- School cafeterias
- Mobile food trucks and carts



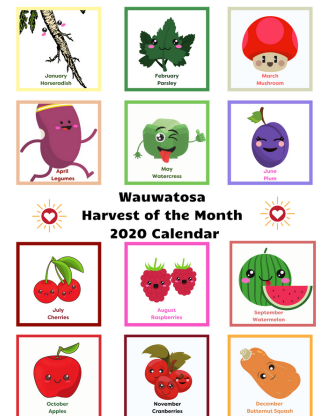
Community Health Education Division

Health education is intended to help individuals and communities improve their health by increasing their knowledge and influencing attitudes. Programming plays a key role in:

- Preventing disease and injury
- Improving health
- Enhancing quality of life
- Forging community partnerships

Harvest of the Month

- Highlights a fruit or vegetable to promote a culture of healthful eating.
- Partners include Metcalfe's, the Lutheran Home, Hart Park Senior Center, Wauwatosa Schools, Wauwatosa Public Library and Froedtert and the Medical College.
- In 2020, aligned choice of fruit or vegetable with broader coalition of partners within Southeastern Wisconsin.



Voter Assistance Program

- Partnership between Clerk's Office, Hart Park Senior Center and Health Department.
- Provides assistance with voter registration, absentee ballot requests, and obtaining absentee ballot witness signature.
- Resulted in installation of new ballot drop box outside Hart Park Senior Center.



Falls Prevention Education Series

- Collaboration with Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging and Milwaukee County Falls Prevention Coalition.
- Provided online education related to falls prevention strategies.
- Distributed newsletter articles with falls prevention strategies as well as how to safely exercise at home during the pandemic.



Emergency Preparedness

A public health emergency occurs when the ordinary health service capabilities of a community are overwhelmed by an extreme situation or event.

Emergency preparedness refers to the steps taken in order to be ready to respond to and stay safe during an emergency.

Emergency preparedness is an ongoing and collaborative community effort. Having programs in place before an emergency is critical so that agencies are able to support and enhance their response to the event. WHD is an active partner in emergency preparedness in the community.

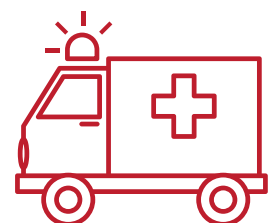


WHD Partnerships

- Southeast Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC)
 - HERC partners with healthcare facilities, public safety, and first responders. The coalition supports communities before, during, and after disasters and other health-related crises.
- Southeast Wisconsin Incident Management Team (SEW IMT)
 - SEW IMT assists local jurisdictions with the management of an incident, exercise or a preplanned event according to the principles of the Incident Command System to achieve an efficient, safe and effective response.

You can be a partner in preparedness!

Would you like to help the WHD and other community partners in the event of an emergency? Sign up on the Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Registry (WEAVR). Your name and skill set will be stored and utilized as needed if an emergency were to occur in the Wauwatosa community. Sign up today at www.weavrwi.org



Stay in the Loop

Social Media

Visit us on Facebook at Healthy Wauwatosa, on Twitter @HealthyTosa and on Instagram @healthywauwatosa for daily public health news, education and community events.



Tosa Food Scoop

Quarterly newsletter sent to all licensed food establishments in Wauwatosa. Our Registered Sanitarians include the latest information on the Wisconsin Food Code and tips to keep establishments clean and safe.



Public Health Scoop

WHD's quarterly newsletter highlighting public health news and information for each season. Find paper copies throughout City Hall or electronically on our website: www.wauwatosa.net/health

