

Oak Creek Health Department 2020 Annual Report



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Letter from Community Public Health Officer

I am pleased to share the Oak Creek Health Department 2020 annual report. Our annual report traditionally highlights the programs and services that we offer to the Oak Creek community. However, 2020 was a year unlike any other, so this annual report differs from previous and future reports.

In 2020, the vast majority of the Health Department efforts were focused on our public health response to the Coronavirus pandemic. We temporarily tripled the size of the Health Department team in order to provide contact tracing, testing, vaccination, communication, and other pandemic related services for our community. We worked closely with community members, businesses, schools, and other organizations in order to slow the spread of disease and protect the health of the Oak Creek community. This 2020 annual report primarily highlights this pandemic response work.

In 2021, we have started to slowly resume providing our traditional programs and services. In addition, we anticipate that we will continue or begin implementation of new activities focused on reproductive health, substance misuse, and other public health priority areas in order to meet the evolving needs of our community.

I encourage you to visit our website and follow us on social media for more information about current issues, programs, and new events!

Respectfully,



Darcy DuBois, MPH

Community Public Health Officer



Mission

The mission of the Oak Creek Health Department is to promote health, prevent disease and injury, and provide a healthy environment for the individual, family and community.

Vision

The Oak Creek Health Department will be the leader in providing valuable resources, public health, and environmental health services while fostering community partnerships to ensure and promote the health of our growing and diverse community.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Community Public Health Officer
Darcy DuBois, MPH

Public Health Specialist
Ali Reed

Public Health Nurses
Anne Barberena, BSN, RN
Kerry Wardius, BSN, RN
Rae Stewart, MN, RN, CNL

Environmental Health Specialist
Dale Pittman, RS, AFO

Health Clerks
Carol Feather
Ramel Repavich



BOARD OF HEALTH

Chairperson

Oak Creek Citizen Representative
José Avila, MSN, RN

Medical Advisor
Michael D'Amico, MD

Oak Creek Alderperson
Steve Kurkowski

Community Public Health Officer
Darcy DuBois, MPH

Oak Creek Citizen Representative
Gary Hintz

Oak Creek Citizen Representative
Richard Barribeau

Oak Creek Citizen Representative
Denise Ewing Decker

Oak Creek Environmental Health Specialist
Dale Pittman, RS, AFO

Emergency Preparedness and Response



Preparing for public health emergencies is a critical ongoing role of local health departments. The Health Department develops, maintains, and updates emergency preparedness plans, holding regular exercises to identify strengths and gaps that inform plan updates. The Health Department had the opportunity to put emergency preparedness plans into action in order to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

The Health Department actively participated in collaborative activities to coordinate regional pandemic response. The Health Department was one of the

lead partners in the Oak Creek Emergency Operations Center (EOC), a group comprised of representation from Oak Creek Fire, Health, Police, Administration, Elected Officials, Community Development, Library, Department of Public Works, Information Technology, Finance, and more. The Oak Creek EOC was activated in early March and remained open through 2020. Additionally, the Health Department was an active member of the Milwaukee County Unified Emergency Operations Center (UEOC), a group with representation from local elected leaders, public health, health care, law enforcement, fire/EMS, the business community, and more. The UEOC members worked collaboratively throughout 2020 to drive pandemic response across Milwaukee County. The Health Department also participated in the Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC) meetings and activities. The HERC, a collaboration between hospitals and healthcare organizations, local health departments, emergency management, and additional members, facilitates cross-sector collaboration to support communities before, during, and after disasters and health-related crises.

In response to a lack of accessible COVID-19 testing in the South Shore of Milwaukee County, the Oak Creek Health Department worked collaboratively with the Cudahy and South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Departments to offer low-barrier COVID-19 testing. In June 2020, the Health Departments worked with the National Guard to offer community testing in Cudahy; nearly 500 individuals accessed testing during the three-day period. In October 2020, the three Health Departments collaborated with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the National Guard to open a long-standing testing site on the former Bucyrus-Erie campus in South Milwaukee. The testing site remained open through March 2021, and approximately 18,000 COVID-19 tests were performed at the site.

Finally, the Health Department worked to recruit volunteers to assist with emergency response activities as needed. Currently, there are 135 individuals registered to volunteer with the Oak Creek Health Department in the Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry (WEAVR).



Health Departments in the South Shore Unite with Local Partners to Bridge COVID-19 Testing Access Gaps

Low barrier testing will be available four days a week, is free and open to all, with or without symptoms

The Cudahy, Oak Creek, South Milwaukee/St Francis Health Departments in the south shore announced they will build on their strong partnership to establish the Zone E Community Coronavirus Specimen Collection Site. This testing site will be the first of its kind in the South Shore area, offering free, low barrier tests to any Wisconsinite who believes they need to be tested.

"As the cases of COVID-19 in our State climb, testing all individuals with high risk exposures to COVID-19 remains a key strategy for containing further spread of infection," said Heather Puente, Cudahy Interim Health Officer. "All persons who were in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19 (defined as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) should be tested, regardless of symptoms."

With the limited number of area medical clinics, local leaders in the south shore are dedicated to ensuring their communities have local, accessible testing options. "Having access to local testing is instrumental for our communities," said Puente. "This testing site removes barriers to testing for many people, whether they are unable to get to a testing location, uncomfortable going to a medical clinic, are uninsured or under-insured, or are looking for more convenient access."

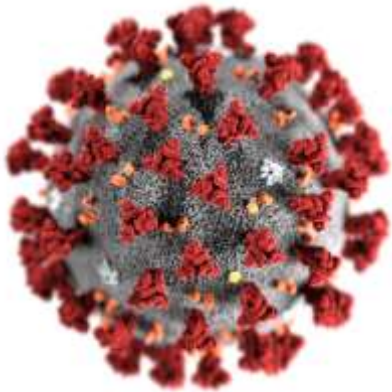
"Our battle against COVID-19 is far from over," said Jackie Ove, South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Officer. "Uniting together through innovative partnerships in one of the ways we are able to maximize resources to combat COVID-19. The municipalities in Zone E have previously coordinated public health programming and emergency response efforts, so this was a natural collaboration. Zone E is defined by the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management as the communities of Cudahy, Oak Creek, South Milwaukee, and St. Francis."

"The former Bucyrus Campus offers a prime drive through site location that allows for testing to all Wisconsinites. It allows for easy entry and exit, as well as contained space within the facility."

"Access to local testing, combined with masking, social distancing, and staying home to isolate or quarantine when appropriate, is critical to combat COVID-19," said Darcy DuBois, Oak Creek Health Officer. "No one wants to pass this illness to their friends or family. Getting tested provides vital information and peace of mind on an individual level and on a community level; it helps us protect those we care about and slows the spread of the disease."

Official dates and times of the Zone E Community Coronavirus Specimen Collection Site will be released soon and will be available on the health department's websites.

Communicable Disease



Wisconsin State Statute requires the Health Department to investigate all suspect, probable, and confirmed cases of reportable communicable diseases. Communicable disease investigation activities help to prevent and control the spread of disease and protect the health of Oak Creek residents and visitors. In 2020, the Health Department investigated 4,016 communicable disease reports, which was a significant increase over the 446 investigations completed in 2019. The vast majority of communicable disease investigation and follow-up was in response to cases of COVID-19. However, the Health Department also investigated cases of sexually transmitted infection, Hepatitis, and many other communicable diseases.

2019

446
communicable
disease
investigations

2020

4016
communicable
disease
investigations

In addition to providing education and support and collecting critical information from individuals testing positive for communicable disease, the Health Department is responsible for conducting contact tracing, which is the process of identifying and notifying contacts to individuals with communicable disease in order to limit or prevent the spread of disease. In 2020, the Oak Creek Health Department identified and worked with over 2,500 contacts to individuals with communicable diseases. This process involves notifying the individual that they have been exposed to a communicable disease, providing information about quarantine and testing, and monitoring for symptoms during the quarantine period. Contact tracing is labor intensive but remains one of the strongest public health strategies to limit the spread of disease.

Case Investigation and How It Works

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Do your part by answering a few simple questions when the Health Department calls.

THIS IS CONFIDENTIAL.

Public Health will ask about:

- The places you have been.
- The people you have been around while infectious.
- Those you have been in contact with for longer than 15 minutes, up to 48 hours before you had symptoms.

You will also be asked to isolate until you are no longer contagious.

Public Health will notify those contacts about their exposure to the virus. We will not tell them about you.



For more information, visit ocwi.org

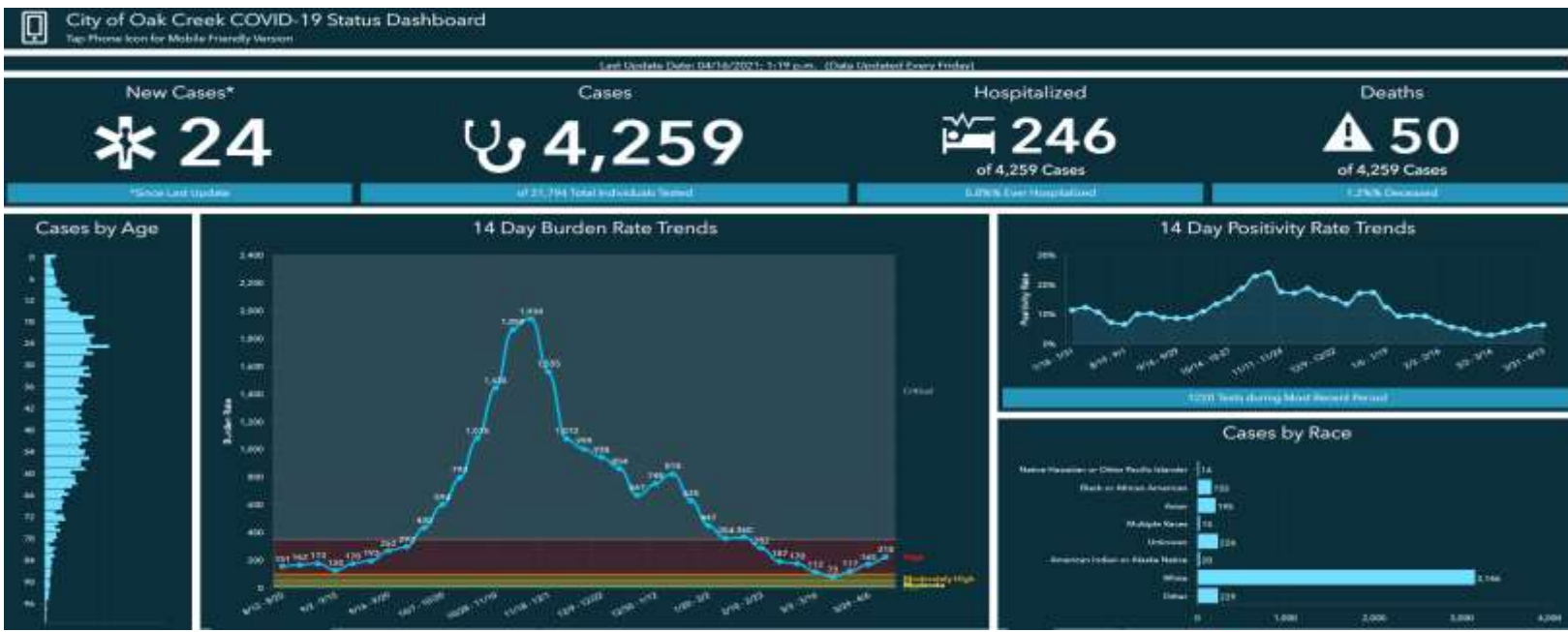
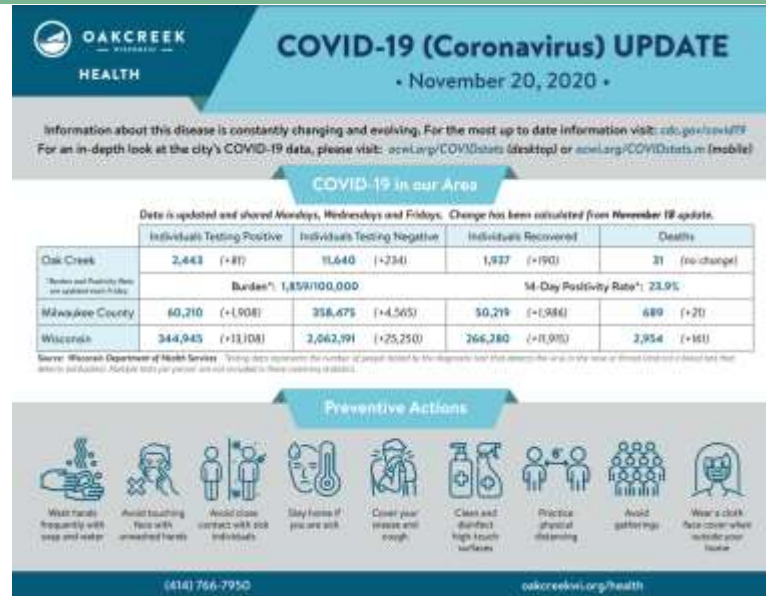


Surveillance and Communication

The Health Department compiled and reviewed pandemic-related surveillance data throughout 2020. This data was used to inform public health interventions implemented by the Health Department as well as recommendations made to community partners and organizations. Additionally, the Health Department regularly shared surveillance data with the Oak Creek community. In early March 2020, the Health Department began to provide regular pandemic updates through social media and the website. Between March and December 2020, over 160 COVID-19 Updates were shared with the community.

Additionally, the Health Department collaborated with the Oak Creek Information Technology Department to implement an Oak Creek COVID-19 Data Dashboard in May 2020, which allowed us to share additional COVID-19 data as well as demonstrate data trends over time. The dashboard was updated three times weekly between March and December of 2020.

The Health Department regularly shared pandemic-related information on our social media platforms and the website. Between 3/1/2020 and 12/31/2020, the Health Department shared 434 posts on Facebook, the vast majority of which were related to COVID-19. During that time, the Health Department's social media followers nearly quadrupled, increasing from 582 in March 2020 to 2,291 in December 2020. Health Department Facebook posts garnered nearly 5,000 comments, over 9,000 shares, and over 22,000 reactions. Notably, one viral post from November 2020 had a total reach of over 1 million individuals.



Community Collaboration

In 2020, the Health Department strengthened existing relationships and developed relationships with many new community partners through pandemic response activities.

Schools and Child Care

The Health Department worked closely with the Oak Creek Franklin School District, private schools, and child care centers to support the health and safety of children, families, and staff. The Health Department regularly shared guidance and up-to-date information, played an active role in helping inform pandemic-related policies and decisions, and worked closely with staff to provide positive case investigation, contact tracing activities, and outbreak support.

Businesses

The Health Department also worked closely with Oak Creek businesses, many of which we had not partnered with prior to the pandemic. Health Department staff provided information and resources to support employee health and safety, including informing pandemic policies and procedures. Health Department staff also assisted businesses with the contact tracing and quarantine process and supported the many businesses that experienced COVID-19 outbreaks throughout the year.

Long-term Care Facilities

Long-term care facilities, including nursing and assisted-living facilities, faced unique challenges as a result of the pandemic. The Health Department worked closely with all long-term care facilities in Oak Creek, providing guidance and information to support the development of pandemic plans early in 2020. Once facilities began to be impacted by COVID-19, Health Department staff were able to assist long-term care facilities with accessing personal protective equipment (PPE), facilitating testing of staff and residents, and navigating staffing shortages related to isolation and quarantine.

Other Community Organizations

Finally, the Health Department worked closely with many other Oak Creek organizations to support the health and safety of staff and visitors, especially in regards to community events. The Health Department was able to provide requested guidance and recommendations to help reduce the risk of disease spread and promote the safety of those involved.



OAKCREEK
— WISCONSIN —
HEALTH

Oak Creek Health Department
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Oak Creek, WI 53154

Office Hours: 8:00am-4:00pm
414.766.7950
www.oakcreekwi.org/health



OakCreekHealth



@OakCreekHealth

Oak Creek Health Department Data			
	<i>2018 total</i>	<i>2019 total</i>	<i>2020 total</i>
<i>Clinical Services</i>			
<i>Communicable Disease Activities</i>			
Communicable disease investigations	365	446	4016
Contact investigations	58	40	2550
<i>Immunization Program</i>			
Immunizations (non-flu) administered	139	66	11
Flu immunizations administered	138	206	193
<i>Lead Case Management</i>			
High blood lead investigations	8	7	3
<i>Other Clinical Services</i>			
TB skin tests administered	161	93	23
Blood pressure screenings administered	46	66	11
<i>Maternal and Child Health</i>			
<i>Safe Sleep Program</i>			
Pack n' plays distributed	7	3	4
Baby boxes distributed	55	11	16
<i>Child Passenger Safety Program</i>			
Car seat checks completed	115	66	23
Car seats distributed	16	11	8
<i>Breastfeeding Support</i>			
Clients served	21	11	10
<i>Environmental Health</i>			
<i>General Environmental Health</i>			
Environmental health investigations	37	56	12
Sharps containers collected	348	418	86
Sharps containers distributed	330	324	186
<i>Rabies Control Program</i>			
Animal bite investigations	66	72	66
<i>Radon Program</i>			
Radon testing kits distributed	131	91	19
Inspections Data			
Inspections Completed	381	444	342
Complaints Received	43	47	33
<i>Data sources: WEDSS, WIR, Wisconsin HealthSpace, Nightengale Notes</i>			