

# Oak Creek Health Department 2021 Annual Report



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## Letter from Community Public Health Officer

I am pleased to share the Oak Creek Health Department 2021 annual report. The majority of Health Department efforts in 2021 continued to focus on the COVID-19 pandemic response. Health Department staffing levels remained elevated, which allowed us to continue to provide contact tracing, testing, vaccination, communication, and other pandemic related services. We continued to work closely with businesses, schools, long-term care facilities, churches, and other organizations in order to slow the spread of disease, provide vaccinations, and protect the health of the community. We are proud of our COVID-19 vaccination efforts, which allowed us to provide frequent and accessible vaccine clinics for the Oak Creek community.

In 2021, we were also able to resume provision of many of our traditional programs and services. In addition, we were able to implement a regional Overdose Fatality Review program and strengthen our current radon testing program. In 2022, we expect our pandemic response activities will continue to decrease, allowing us to focus on pandemic recovery work and traditional public health programming as well as new activities to address reproductive health, substance misuse, and other public health priority areas in order to meet the ever-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

Emma Durkin-Wagner

### Public Health Nurses

Anne Barberena, BSN, RN

Rae Stewart, MN, RN, CNL

Kerry Wardius, BSN, RN, CLC

### Environmental Health Specialist

Dale Pittman, RS, AFO

### Preparedness Coordinator

Brianna Campbell, MPH

### Health Clerks

Carrie Haselow

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.

Throughout 2021, the Health Department continued to put our emergency preparedness plans into action in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Health Department actively participated in collaborative activities to coordinate regional pandemic response. The Health Department continued to serve as a lead

partner in the Oak Creek Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Milwaukee County Unified Operations Center, both of which were activated in March 2020 and demobilized in June 2021. The Health Department also participated in regional Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC) meetings and activities which focused on facilitating cross-sector collaboration to support communities before, during, and after disasters and health-related crises.

With the importance of public health emergency preparedness highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Health Department identified the need for a dedicated team member focused on emergency preparedness planning and response. Pandemic response grant funding allowed the Health Department to collaborate with the Cudahy and South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Departments to develop and implement a joint Preparedness Coordinator position in late 2021. The Preparedness Coordinator is housed at the Oak Creek Health Department and serves as the lead staff person for all emergency preparedness activities across the three health departments, allowing for more efficient use of funding and staffing resources as well as strengthened collaboration and coordination across the region.



# COVID-19 Vaccination

The Oak Creek Health Department worked to make COVID-19 vaccine accessible across the Oak Creek community throughout 2021. The Health Department collaborated with the Cudahy and South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Departments to hold community COVID-19 vaccine clinics - the first of which were held in January 2021.

In March 2021, the three health departments collaborated to open the South Shore COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic (SSCVC), which operated out of the former K-Mart space in Cudahy. The SSCVC allowed the health departments to hold frequent and efficient vaccine clinics in an accessible location. The clinic was in operation through June 2021, and nearly 15,000 COVID-19 vaccines were provided to over 9,000 individuals during the 3.5 months of operation. In addition to the SSCVC, collaborative community vaccine clinics were held at the former Bucyrus campus, the Oak Creek Assembly of God and other churches, the City Hall buildings in Oak Creek, Cudahy, South Milwaukee, and St. Francis, MATC, libraries, farmers markets, and local businesses. When vaccines were approved for children, the health departments worked with the Oak Creek Franklin Joint School District, the School District of Cudahy, the School District of South Milwaukee, and the St. Francis School District to hold vaccine clinics in school buildings, making COVID-19 vaccine easily accessible to children and families. The Oak Creek, Cudahy, South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Departments were jointly awarded a 2021 BizTimes Notable Heroes in Healthcare award for their collaborative COVID-19 vaccination and testing efforts.



**SOUTH SHORE COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC**  
is vaccinating all those who  
live, work & study in Wisconsin  
April 5-8

Open to all  
individuals 16+

Appointment  
required, link to  
register above.



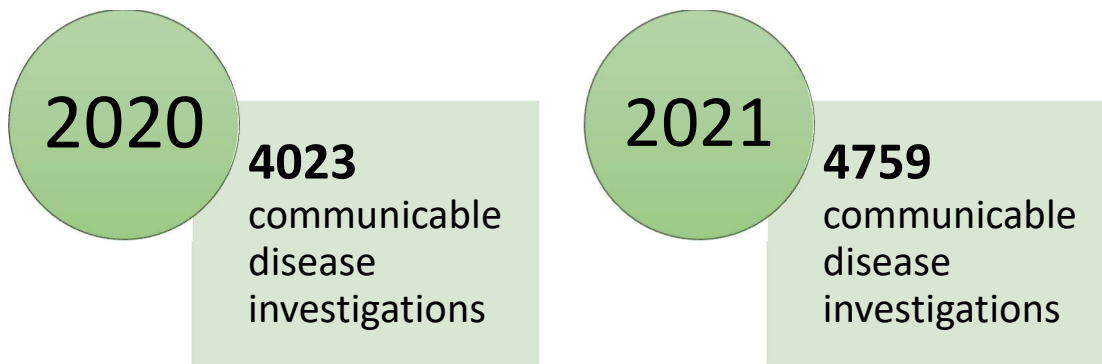
The Oak Creek Health Department also held regular vaccine clinics in the Health Department, offering COVID-19 vaccine, flu shots, and other vaccines. Additionally, the Oak Creek Health Department provided in-home COVID-19 vaccines and flu shots to individuals who were unable to easily leave their home.



**BIZTIMES NOTABLE HEROES  
IN HEALTHCARE**

# 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 2021, the Health Department investigated 4,759 communicable disease reports, which represents a slight increase over the 4,023 investigations completed in 2020. 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.



## Surveillance and Communication

The Health Department continued to compile and review pandemic-related surveillance data throughout 2021, which informed public health recommendations for community members and partners and was regularly shared with the Oak Creek community. Data updates were shared at least weekly through social media, the City website, and the Oak Creek COVID-19 Data Dashboard; a total of 68 data updates were shared in 2021. Additionally, pandemic and other public health information, guidance, and updates were shared as needed through the Health Department website and social media accounts.

### COVID-19 (Coronavirus) UPDATE

• November 20, 2020 •

Information about this disease is constantly changing and evolving. For the most up to date information visit: [cdc.gov/covid19](https://cdc.gov/covid19)  
For an in-depth look at the city's COVID-19 data, please visit: [ocwi.org/COVIDstats](https://ocwi.org/COVIDstats) (desktop) or [ocwi.org/COVIDstats.m](https://ocwi.org/COVIDstats.m) (mobile)

**COVID-19 in our Area**

Data is updated and shared Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Change has been calculated from November 18 update.

	Individuals Testing Positive	Individuals Testing Negative	Individuals Recovered	Deaths
Oak Creek	2,443 (+81)	11,640 (+234)	1,937 (+190)	31 (no change)
*Burden and Positivity Rate are updated each Friday.	Burden*: 1,859/100,000		14-Day Positivity Rate*: 23.9%	
Milwaukee County	60,210 (+1,908)	358,475 (+4,565)	50,219 (+1,986)	689 (+21)
Wisconsin	344,945 (+13,108)	2,062,191 (+25,250)	266,280 (+11,915)	2,954 (+161)

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Testing data represents the number of people tested by the diagnostic test that detects the virus in the nose or throat (and not a blood test that detects antibodies). Multiple tests per person are not included in these summary statistics.

**Preventive Actions**

Wash hands frequently with soap and water

Avoid touching face with unwashed hands

Avoid close contact with sick individuals

Stay home if you are sick

Cover your sneeze and cough

Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces

Practice physical distancing

Avoid gatherings

Wear a cloth face cover when outside your home

(414) 766-7950

[oakcreekwi.org/health](https://oakcreekwi.org/health)

# Other Public Health Programs and Services

## Overdose Fatality Review

In 2021, the Oak Creek Health Department received grant funding to implement a regional Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team serving the communities of Oak Creek, Cudahy, South Milwaukee, and St. Francis. The OFR is a multi-disciplinary process for reviewing and understanding the risk factors and circumstances leading to fatal overdoses. The South Shore Overdose Fatality Review team includes representation from municipal health, fire, and police departments, the Medical Examiner's office, the District Attorney's office, and local drug treatment facilities. The team meets quarterly to review overdose deaths that have occurred in the four communities, using a systematic process to examine the underlying causes of overdose fatalities and develop actionable recommendations intended to prevent future overdoses.

## Food Safety and Recreational Licensing

The Oak Creek Health Department serves as an agent of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The Oak Creek Health Department licenses, conducts inspections, and investigates complaints for all licensed facilities including restaurants, mobile food trucks, pools, and hotels. All establishments are routinely inspected at least annually, but more frequent inspections occur as needed to achieve compliance with all applicable regulations.

In 2021, inspection reports for all Oak Creek licensed establishments were made available for review by community members on the Health Department website.

2021 Food Safety and Recreational Licensing Data	
Restaurant Licenses Issued	92
Retail Food Establishment Licenses Issued	73
Pool Licenses Issued	25
Hotel Licenses Issued	14
Inspections Completed	409
Complaints Investigated	30





**OAKCREEK**  
— WISCONSIN —  
**HEALTH**

**Oak Creek Health Department**  
8040 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Oak Creek, WI 53154

Office Hours: 8:00am-4:00pm  
414.766.7950  
[www.oakcreekwi.org/health](http://www.oakcreekwi.org/health)



OakCreekHealth



@OakCreekHealth



oakcreekhealth

<b>Oak Creek Health Department Data</b>			
	<i>2019 total</i>	<i>2020 total</i>	<i>2021 total</i>
<b><i>Clinical Services</i></b>			
<i>Communicable Disease Activities</i>			
Communicable disease investigations	446	4023	<b>4759</b>
Contact investigations	40	2550	<b>92</b>
<i>Immunization Program</i>			
Immunizations (non-flu) administered	66	11	<b>5368</b>
Flu immunizations administered	206	193	<b>345</b>
<i>Lead Case Management</i>			
High blood lead investigations	7	3	<b>1</b>
<i>Other Clinical Services</i>			
TB skin tests administered	93	23	<b>45</b>
Blood pressure screenings administered	66	11	<b>4</b>
<b><i>Maternal and Child Health</i></b>			
<i>Safe Sleep Program</i>			
Pack n' plays distributed	3	4	<b>1</b>
Baby boxes distributed	11	16	<b>2</b>
<i>Child Passenger Safety Program</i>			
Car seat checks completed	66	23	<b>23</b>
Car seats distributed	11	8	<b>8</b>
<i>Breastfeeding Support</i>			
Clients served	11	10	<b>8</b>
<b><i>Environmental Health</i></b>			
<i>General Environmental Health</i>			
Environmental health investigations	56	12	<b>11</b>
Sharps containers collected	418	86	<b>394</b>
Sharps containers distributed	324	186	<b>259</b>
<i>Rabies Control Program</i>			
Animal bite investigations	72	66	<b>72</b>
<i>Radon Program</i>			
Radon testing kits distributed	91	19	<b>25</b>
<b>Inspections Data</b>			
Inspections Completed	444	342	<b>409</b>
Complaints Received	47	33	<b>30</b>
<i>Data sources: WEDSS, WIR, Wisconsin HealthSpace, Nightingale Notes</i>			