

Dane County COVID-19 Coordination Conference Call - Notes

JUL 27, 2020 – 1:00 PM

Dave Janda, Assistant Director, Dane County Emergency Management, Host

[Dane County, WI](#)

[Dane County Emergency Management FB](#)

[Dane County/Madison Public Health](#)

[WI Department of Health Services](#)

See additional links for resources at the bottom of the document

Participants:

Local Units of Government Representatives

Public Safety Association Representatives

Emergency Response Partner Agencies

Public and Private School Representatives

Inter-Hospital Communications and Planning Representatives

Other Community-Based Organizations and Community Leaders

Please send questions, comments, or requests for additional information to:

emergencymanagement@countyofdane.com

Clarification provided by Public Health Madison & Dane County regarding the phased reopening:

PHMDC is still using a phased approach to reopening Dane County, but it has been—and will likely continue to be--modified. As you know, we've had several spikes in positive cases during phase 2 and then issued multiple targeted orders to restrict activities that contributed to those spikes. We then updated our [Forward Dane Plan](#) to reflect new orders, and in the process, took out the phases chart given the number of sectors that no longer reflected the capacity limits originally established in that phase. For example, because of order #7 and bars known contribution to COVID spread in Dane County, they are currently closed except for take-out and outdoor seating, whereas their previously established capacity limit was listed as 50% in our phase 2 chart. Bottom line: we are still reopening Dane County in a phased manner, but we're currently looking at it more broadly given that our orders have changed many sectors capacity limits and gathering size numbers in order to curb the spikes in positive cases. With that being said, we are still monitoring our data for when we would transition into the next reopening phase and will use the same [metrics](#) as previously provided to the community. Based on Dane County's current metrics and high number of local cases, we are not in a position to transition to phase 3. We are, however, in the process of beginning to plan what specific sectors capacity limits would be in the event of a transition to phase 3.

Agenda

1. Introduction and Purpose of Call
 - a. Dave Janda, Assistant Director, Dane County Emergency Management, Host
 - i. Weekly MON coordination conference calls between Dane County Emergency and participants (see list at top of page) on MON at 1:00 pm.
 - ii. Purpose of the call is Information sharing, updates, and responding to questions.
 1. Phones muted (except for identified speakers)
 2. Please send questions, comments, or requests for additional information to: emergencymanagement@countyofdane.com
 - iii. Discussion on our progress - comparison to preparing for and participating in a marathon.
2. Overview of K-12 School Requirements
3. Briefing from [Public Health Madison and Dane County](#)
 - a. John Hausbeck, Supervisor
 - i. Update. Seeing fewer new cases per day than we have in a while. Only 22 new cases which is welcome. Hoping the number goes down. One of only 3 counties in the state that can make that claim and one of the most populous counties in the state.
 - ii. Data dashboard - Percent positivity rate has been all over the place. Not reflecting reality. Explanation provided was that negative test results had not been into the data system (there was a backlog). Need to have both the negative and positive results in the system to calculate the percent positivity rate accurately. The negative results were being reported to the individuals. The situation has been addressed. Percent positivity rate should show a better, more accurate representation at this time. We are about 1% (1.1% - 1.4%) on that metric. A welcome sign of where we want to be.
 - iii. Continuing to work with the National Guard at the Alliant Center. Awaiting a response on extension of their mission. Cautiously optimistic.
 - iv. Continuing to pursue additional community testing.
 - v. Bringing on more staff related to testing/contact tracing.
 - vi. Initially, the Forward Dane Plan had a phased approach (Phase I-III). It was a linear path. Our hope was to move forward in a linear fashion, but also realistic that there would be setbacks. We had a setback with some spikes. Made some fine tuning to the orders to address specific areas where the spikes occurred. This makes it difficult to remain in a linear phased approach. We use the data to determine when we can move forward. Data driven decision making on which restrictions can be relaxed and which ones need to remain in place to maintain control over high risk situations/locations.
 - vii. Please check the Forward Dane Plan on the website. Have removed the "phases" and referencing moving forward or backward. Trying to find the best way to describe. Need to use a nuanced approach that responds to the disease, but are not overly burdening to the community.
 - viii. Clean data and future metric updates. Believes this question/comment is in reference to what was discussed earlier on processing negative test results for percent positivity rate.

- ix. How is percent positivity rate used to calculate R value. Will need to respond later.
- x. What is the process and timeline for phased reopening of schools. Staff working on that. State is working on their own metrics. We are working with them to avoid confusion and provide clarity. Wanted to have more info to share, but does not have it at this time.
- xi. Dave question: Overview of what the R value is?
 - 1. John response: Not at this time. Did not have time to prepare a response.
- xii. Dave question: Forward Dane Plan posted JUN 2, 2020 still has references to the phases. Primarily for John's information.
 - 1. John response: Referencing the Forward Dane Document updated on JUL 1, 2020. Planned phases are no longer useful. May need to clean up some other documents that are not aligned. Need to align the documents to the best of their ability.
- xiii. Dave question: How do people plan if there is no phased approach? What is replacing the phased approach?
 - 1. John response: Good question. They are learning from the data. Example is that bars, restaurants, large gatherings were contributing to spikes. Using data to help determine next actions. Difficult to implement in a linear fashion (e.g., phased approach). Hard to respond at this time.
- xiv. Dave question: In number of new cases and case counts. Initially went up and is now going down. Do you have an attribution for the decline?
 - 1. John response: That is the difficult component. Only talking to individuals who have the disease and finding out where they get sick. Do not know what folks who are avoiding the illness are doing to avoid. Hard to gather data when folks do not become ill. Not surveying healthy folks to see how they are avoiding the illness.
- xv. Dave question: Dashboard: section on number of people tested. Does the number reflect people outside of Dane County and people who are tested more than once?
 - 1. John response: Only folks in Dane County. Some folks are tested multiple times (e.g., health care workers).
- xvi. Dave question: What is the value of deep cleaning in a school? Is it worth doing? Cites an article that comes to the conclusion that it is not a good use of resources.
 - 1. John response: Without being certain about the department stance, I will offer my opinion. Deep cleaning is helpful when you have a known exposure. Doing deep cleaning without knowledge of an exposure may be doing cleaning for cleaning sake.
- xvii. Dave question: What planning is being done related to the influx of UW students this fall? Is there a heightened awareness in preparation for the return of students? Specifically, is there anything coming from MDCPH (e.g., mask orders, mass gatherings, etc.)?
 - 1. John response: Understands that UW is planning for some level of in-person return. UW Health services is very busy with preparations for the return of students.

2. John response: Always difficult when you have folks coming from other areas. It will be a challenge to communicate that. Communication folks are working on sharing information on the rules we have in place in Dane County. Increase in number of people simply means more communication on the existing plans. No change in hand washing, masking, cleaning, distancing. Details of orders may be a bit different depending on where people have been/are, but our orders and plans will remain the same. We may get more testing with increase of students.
- xviii. Dave comment from a participant: R value (or R nought) is a measure of the rate of spread of an infectious disease. An R value of 1 means one person will become infected from a source case. An R value greater than 1 means that multiple people will become infected from a source case (indicates an increase in the rate of spread of the disease in a community). An R value less than one means that fewer 1 person will become infected from a source case (indicates a decrease in the rate of spread of the disease). Refers to the rate of spread of disease.
 1. John response: R value changes from time to time and from place to place.
- xix. Dave comment: Discussion about the use of “phases” is not useful at this point in time (re: Forward Dane Plan). Some folks have not heard this before - may be due to so much information and changing information. There are many conference calls with different groups. A request for consistency in all the messaging and word choices in all conference calls in relation to components (e.g., removal of phases). Consistency of messaging is important to all participants.
 1. John response: Concurr. Will continue to ensure consistency in reporting. Working to provide the best information possible that he has available.
- xx. Dave comment: The situation continues to change over time.
- xxi. Current Data
 1. 3,863 confirmed cases-Dane County (48,827-[State](#))
 2. 34 deaths-Dane County (892-[State](#))
 3. 153,739 tested-Dane County (866,376-[State](#))
4. Announcements
 - a. NA
5. Questions
 - a. See above.
6. Next steps
 - a. Next call is MON, 3 AUG 2020, 1:00 pm.
 - b. Please send questions, comments, or requests for additional information to: emergencymanagement@countyofdane.com