Dear [Health Officer],

Congratulations on your health officer appointment! The Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program team at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services would like to welcome you and share information about our program and activities so that you can use us as a resource in the future.

About us

The Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services works to monitor and improve knowledge of health and safety hazards in the workplace. The following activities are included.

- Monitoring all aspects of work-related health, including outbreak detection
- Conducting epidemiologic analyses on workplace health and safety
- Communicating risks and prevention methods by creating informative materials for workers and employers
- Working with local and Tribal health departments by providing resources and other support

Below are the current projects and topics of the Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program focuses on.

- Calculation and compilation of annual state occupational health indicators
- Surveillance of adult lead poisoning, Occupational Respiratory Disease (silicosis, asbestosis, chemical pneumonitis, and occupational lung diseases due to biodusts and bioaerosols), youth worker injury, and work-related infectious disease surveillance, including COVID-19
- Improved employment data collection, e.g., implementation of Industry and Occupation data fields in the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) and support for electronic case reporting (eCR) of reportable conditions with employment information
- Outreach to partners in public health, higher education, and other groups or individuals affected by workplace hazards and health issues

Enhancing public health capacity and protecting public workers

Occupational health and safety is an under-served area of public health, including for our local and Tribal health departments (LTHDs). By partnering with the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene's WisCon program, the Wisconsin Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program plans to provide specialized trainings and consultations to LTHDs and other public sector employers. Our goal is to help strengthen the public health capacity and health and safety of all Wisconsin workers. We also hope that through increased engagements with LTHDs and other public sector partners, we can all collaborate to identify long-term needs that can be addressed as this project continues to develop. Included with this letter is a flyer with upcoming training dates in 2023.

Be in the know

The Wisconsin Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance team is developing a newsletter so that health officers and other occupational health and safety partners can receive regular updates from our team and news about worker and workplace safety and health. If you are interested in receiving our newsletter, please email Wendy Fall (wendy.fall@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

Other Wisconsin occupational health resources

Other organizations in Wisconsin also provide resources on workplace safety and health. You can use the Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program as a liaison to connect with these entities if you choose. In this packet we have provided more information on the resources these organizations offer.

We hope that you will use us as a resource in the future. Explore our current resources on our webpages. Please email us if you have any questions or need assistance.

Best wishes,
The Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program Team

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH SERVICES

In This Packet

Wisconsin Occupational Health and Safety Resources

WisCon

WisCon, under the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene, provides free and confidential on-site safety and health consultation services for small businesses in Wisconsin. Trained and experienced occupational safety specialists and industrial hygienists provide assistance to:

- Identify workplace hazards.
- Perform industrial hygiene employee exposure sampling and assessment.
- Recommend and assist in developing controls to abate OSHA citation.
- Evaluate and assist in developing hazard-management and safety and health management programs.
- Conduct limited training to help clients build in-house employee safety and health training capacity.

No enforcement actions or penalties are carried out by WisCon.

Beginning in 2023, WisCon will also be available to provide training and consultation to the public sector, **including local and Tribal Health Departments**. Their services can help you understand and respond to workplace health and safety issues in your jurisdiction. Look for more information on these trainings and resources in 2023.

To learn more, visit the WisCon website.

Flip For More Information!

Wisconsin Occupational Health and Safety Resources

School for Workers

School for Workers is a university-based labor education program with the goal of empowering working people, labor organizations, and community partners to advocate for the rights of the worker and facilitate workplace improvements. School for Workers offers classes and trainings both through the university and in partnership with community groups. Faculty of the School for Workers also provide facilitation and consultation for community organization development, strategic planning, worker advocacy, workplace health and safety, and other topics.

To learn more, visit the School for Workers website.

Department of Workforce Development

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is a state agency providing employment and training assistance to people looking for work, while also working with employers to fill current job openings. DWD's employment programs help connect employers and job seekers, secure jobs for people with disabilities, and assist people with low-incomes and long-term unemployment in achieving sustainable employment outcomes. DWD works with Wisconsin Job Centers, links youth with jobs of tomorrow, protects and enforces workers' rights, processes unemployment claims, and ensures workers' compensation claims are paid in accordance with the law.

DWD resources

Learn about the DWD Safety Program.

Read Putting Together a Safe Workplace.

Explore how DWD addresses workers' compensation.

Learn about the DWD Equal Rights Division.

Dive into economic and labor market information on Wisconomy.

Learn more about DWD on the About DWD webpage.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) works to ensure access to a safe and healthful work environment for workers by setting and enforcing standards. OSHA also addresses workplace health and safety through addressing worker complaints, and conducting safety and health inspections. Information on various topics related to workplace safety and health are also available on the OSHA website.

Addressing workplace safety and health concerns

OSHA offers an avenue for workers who believe their working conditions to be unsafe or unhealthful to file a confidential complaint. A safety and health complaint may result in OSHA inspecting that workplace.

Learn more about **safety and health complaints** and how to file.

To see what **inspections** have been done in your area, conduct an establishment search.

Protection against employer retaliation

It is illegal for employers to fire, transfer, or retaliate against a worker who files a complaint against them. If a worker feels they have been retaliated against, a **whistleblower complaint** can be filed within 30 days of the alleged retaliation.

The Workers Have Rights! fact sheet, available in English and Spanish, also provides information on **whistleblower protections**.

OSHA area offices

The state of Wisconsin is under federal OSHA jurisdiction. This covers most private-sector workplaces within the state. There are four OSHA area offices in Wisconsin, serving counties in their area. State and local government workers are not covered by OSHA.

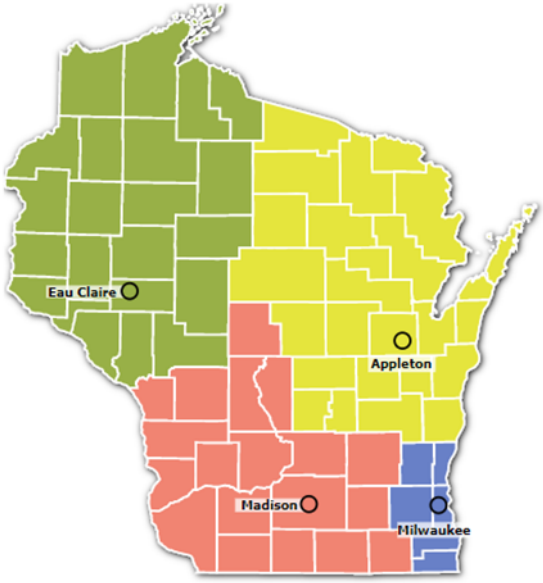
Local and Tribal health departments are encouraged to connect with their OSHA area offices in order to learn more about each office's current priorities, resources and options for collaborating with local public health. Turn this page over to see which OSHA area office provides support to your jurisdiction.

Eau Claire Area Office
1310 W. Clairemont Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54701
(715) 832-9019

Ashland
Barron
Bayfield
Buffalo
Burnett
Chippewa
Clark
Douglas
Dunn
Eau Claire
Iron
Jackson
Pepin
Pierce
Polk
Price
Rusk
Sawyer
Saint Croix
Taylor
Trempealeau
Washburn

Madison Area Office
1402 Pankratz Street, Suite #114
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 733-2822

Adams
Columbia
Crawford
Dane
Dodge
Grant
Green
Iowa
Jefferson
Juneau
La Crosse
Lafayette
Monroe
Richland
Rock
Sauk
Vernon
Walworth
Wood



Appleton Area Office
1648 Tri Park Way
Appleton, WI 54914
(920) 734-4521

Brown
Calumet
Door
Florence
Fond Du Lac
Forest
Green Lake
Kewaunee
Langlade
Lincoln
Manitowoc
Marathon
Marinette
Marquette
Menominee
Oconto
Oneida
Outagamie
Portage
Shawano
Sheboygan
Vilas
Waupaca
Waushara
Winnebago

Milwaukee Area Office
310 West Wisconsin Avenue,
Room 1180
Milwaukee, WI 53203
(414) 297-3315

Kenosha
Milwaukee
Ozaukee
Racine
Washington
Waukesha

Why We Capture WEDSS Industry and Occupation Information

Where you work matters for your health

The type of work someone does and the environment they work in can impact an individual's health, whether it be by exposure to toxic chemicals, chronic pain from uncomfortable work positioning, or any number of issues in between. These impacts can be seen in the short- or long-term. Many types of health risks are work-related, but without the ability to connect cases to the same work location or job activities, the connection between work and health is invisible. The industry is the setting of someone's occupation, while the occupation is the kind of job someone has. Capturing industry and occupation data is essential for identifying, intervening, and preventing workplace health hazards.

Capturing industry and occupation information in WEDSS

In 2020, we started including standardized employment data fields for industry and occupation (I/O) in the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS). The Wisconsin Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance program uses I/O data to identify, intervene on, and prevent immediate and long-term workplace health hazards. Local and Tribal health departments are instrumental in these efforts. For instance, we were able to use I/O data identify workers at higher risk for a variety of workplace hazards, like COVID-19 exposure. We then used this information to focus our workplace health and safety education efforts.

Questions about WEDSS? Contact us!

DHSWEDSS@dhs.wisconsin.gov
dhsocchealth@wi.gov

Visit the WEDSS SharePoint for more information.

Why We Capture WEDSS Industry and Occupation Information

I/O dashboard

Our team has developed I/O dashboards to depict case distribution across industries and occupations, as well as the percentage of I/O reporting during case interviews. You can find a dashboard specific for COVID-19 on PCA Portal under COVID-19 Metrics. This depicts the I/O data in WEDSS during COVID-19 case interviews for your county. It also showcases the number of COVID-19 cases by industry and occupation for your county. You can use this information for your own local efforts. Although this report focuses on COVID-19, it exemplifies the importance of recording I/O information when investigating infectious disease and other potential work-related diseases. A dashboard for non-COVID-19 I/O is available for select diseases. Keep checking back for future additions.

Need some WEDSS tutorials or refreshers?

Complete the **LTHDs—New User Training** on the WEDSS SharePoint.

Complete the **WEDSS Industry and Occupation Data Training Modules** under LTHDs—WEDSS Functionality.

Remember to hit the standardize I/O button after inputting I/O data in WEDSS.

List of American College of Environmental and Occupational Medicine Providers in Wisconsin

Provider name	Company	Phone	City
Al Balsutraitis, DO, MPH	Occ & Env Med Assoc SC	414-465-3600	Brookfield
Andrew E. Floren, MD, MPH, FAAFP, FACOEM	Mayo Clinic Health System	715-838-5279	Eau Claire
Ben Blagogee, MD, MPH, PhD	Dean Clinic East	608-252-8003	Madison
Brian D. Harrison, MD, CIME, FACOEM	Authentic Occupational Medicine	920-903-8959	Appleton
Charles T. Ablett, MD, MPH	Marshfield Clinic	715-389-7667	Marshfield
Charles A. Capasso, MD, MPH, FACOEM			
Christopher Westra, MD, MPH, FACOEM	ThedaCare	920-380-4901	Appleton
Corey Cronath, DO, MPH, CPE	Marshfield Clinic Health	715-858-4015	Eau Claire
David L. Drury, MD, MPH, FACOEM	Clement J Zablocki VA Medical Center	414-384-2000	Milwaukee
Eric W. Newgent, DO, MS	Prevea Health	920-405-1420	Green Bay
Irene Valerio, MD, MPH	Advocate Aurora Health	262-948-7031	Kenosha
James F. Bencivenga, MD	Aurora Health Center	262-670-4350	Hartford
Jane M. Stark, MD, MPH	Aurora Sheboygan Clinic	920-459-1459	Sheboygan
Jaspal S. Arora, MD, MPH, MBA, FACOEM	IPW/Seine Health	262-565-5090	Pewaukee
Jenny R. Amani, MD	SSM Health		Janesville
Jui B. Haker, MD, MPH	SSM Health-Dean Medical	608-252-8003	Madison
Kristen L. Steivang, ANP-C, APNP, MSN, RN	SSM Health		Verona
Laura L. Radke, MD	Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin	262-253-5150	Menomonee Falls
Mary Capelle, APNP, FNP-C	Prevea Health	920-717-0800	Manitowoc
Melinee D. Burnett, PA-C	Mercy Health Systems	262-245-0535	Lake Geneva

List of American College of Environmental and Occupational Medicine Providers in Wisconsin

Provider name	Company	Phone	City
Robert J. Blanco, MD, MPH	Aurora Occupational Health	920-907-7240	Fond Du Lac
Robert A. Marshall, MD, MPH	Mercy Health	608-741-3800	Janesville
Scott M. Dresden, MD, MBA, MPH	Aurora Occupational Health	262-741-2014	Mount Pleasant
Scott Gooch, MPAS, PA-C	Marshfield Clinic Health System	715-389-4779	Eau Claire
Taylor E. Neff, MD	Taylor Naff, MD	715-781-0589	Eau Claire
William W. Greaves, MD, MSPH, FACPM, FACOEM	OEM Medical Associates	414-352-2113	Bayside

For an updated list, visit the American College of Environmental and Occupational Medicine Providers website and find a provider.

Last updated 3/3/2023

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General Inbox
dhsocchealth@wi.gov

Appendix A: COVID-19 Related Occupational Health Fact Sheets

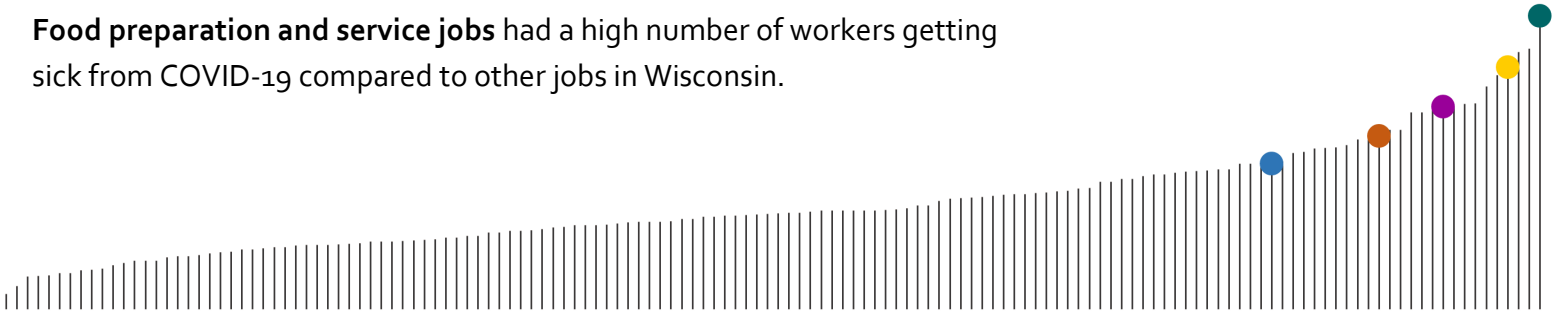
1. **Work-Related Incidence of COVID-19 :Food Preparation and Service Workers, P-03372**
2. **Work-Related Incidence of COVID-19: Medical and Health Service Workers , P-03372**
3. **Work-Related Incidence of COVID-19: Personal Care and Service Workers , P-03372**
4. **Work-Related Incidence of COVID-19: Protective Service Workers, P-03372**
5. **Worker's Compensation and COVID-19: work-related injuries and illnesses, P-03369**

Work-Related Incidence for COVID-19:

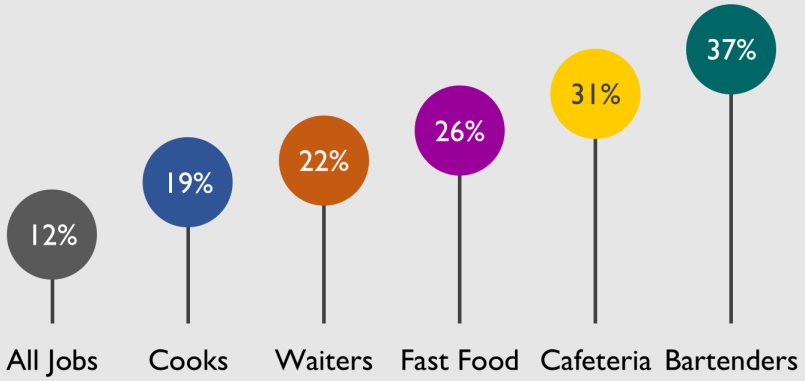
Food Preparation and Service Workers

A study by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services found that among 144 jobs, **food preparation and service workers** had some of the highest rates of COVID-19. Among all the jobs in the study, **bartenders** had the highest rate, **cafeteria workers** had the fourth highest, **fast food workers** had the 10th highest, **waiters** had the 16th highest, and **cooks** had the 25th highest rate of COVID-19.

Food preparation and service jobs had a high number of workers getting sick from COVID-19 compared to other jobs in Wisconsin.



Across all jobs in Wisconsin, an average of **12%** of adult workers had COVID-19 during September 2020–May 2021. Some food and beverage preparation jobs had more workers getting infected with COVID-19 than the average for all jobs in the Wisconsin study during this period.



Stay healthy in the workplace!

- Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face.
- Wear a mask if you choose and respect the choice of others who wear one.
- Ask your employer about ways to increase air flow and ventilation in your workplace.
- Get the COVID-19 vaccine and stay up to date on your boosters.
- Get tested immediately if you feel COVID-19 symptoms.
- Let your close contacts know and follow the most recent CDC COVID-19 isolation guidelines if you test positive for COVID-19.

For more workplace safety resources visit:

Wisconsin Department of Health Occupational Health webpage

CDC COVID-19 Workplaces & Businesses webpage

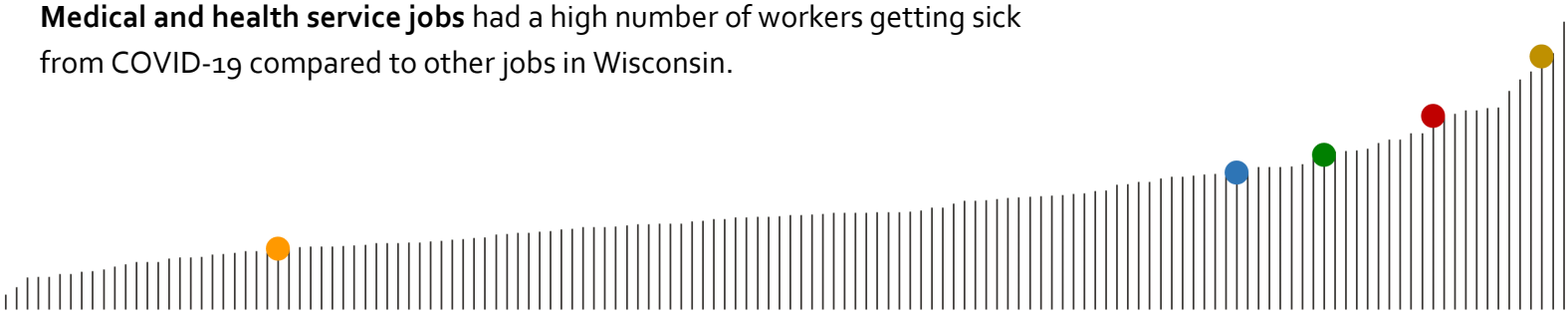
Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Health
dhsocchealth@dhs.wi.gov | P-03372 (01/2023)
Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health

Work-Related Incidence for COVID-19:

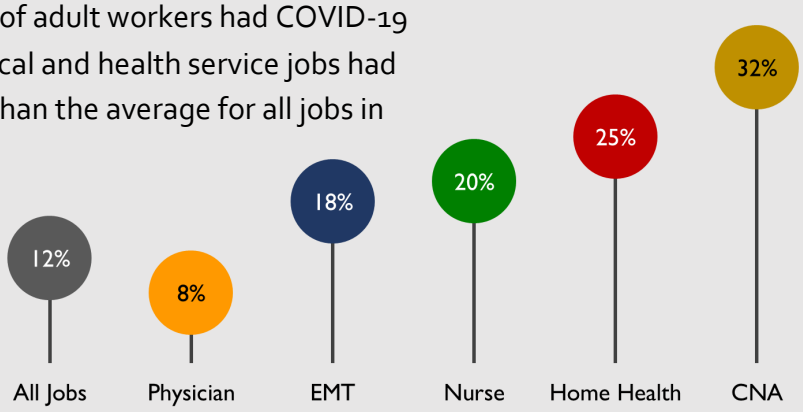
Medical and Health Services Workers

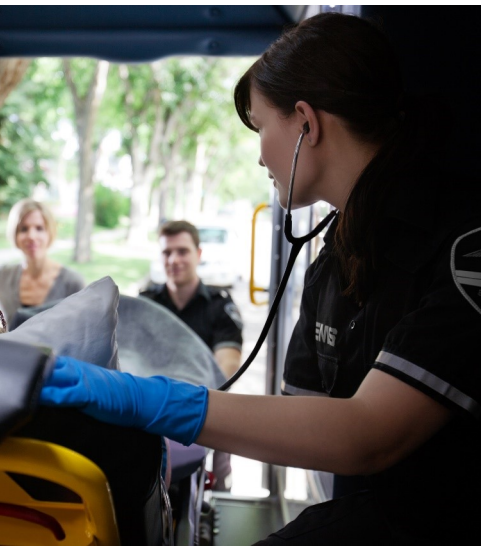
A study by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services found that among 144 jobs, **medical and health service workers** had some of the highest rates of COVID-19. Among all the jobs in the study, **certified nursing assistants (CNA)** had the third highest, **home health aides** had the 13th highest, **nurses** had the 23rd highest, and **emergency medical technicians (EMT)** had the 31st highest incidence for COVID-19 positive tests.

Medical and health service jobs had a high number of workers getting sick from COVID-19 compared to other jobs in Wisconsin.



Across all jobs in Wisconsin, an average of **12%** of adult workers had COVID-19 during September 2020–May 2021. Some medical and health service jobs had more workers getting infected with COVID-19 than the average for all jobs in the Wisconsin study during this period.





Stay healthy in the workplace!

- Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face.
- Wear a mask if you choose and respect the choice of others who wear one.
- Ask your employer about ways to increase air flow and ventilation in your workplace.
- Get the COVID-19 vaccine and stay up to date on your boosters.
- Get tested immediately if you feel COVID-19 symptoms.
- Let your close contacts know and follow the most recent CDC COVID-19 isolation guidelines if you test positive for COVID-19.

For more workplace safety resources visit:

Wisconsin Department of Health Occupational Health webpage

CDC COVID-19 Workplaces & Businesses webpage

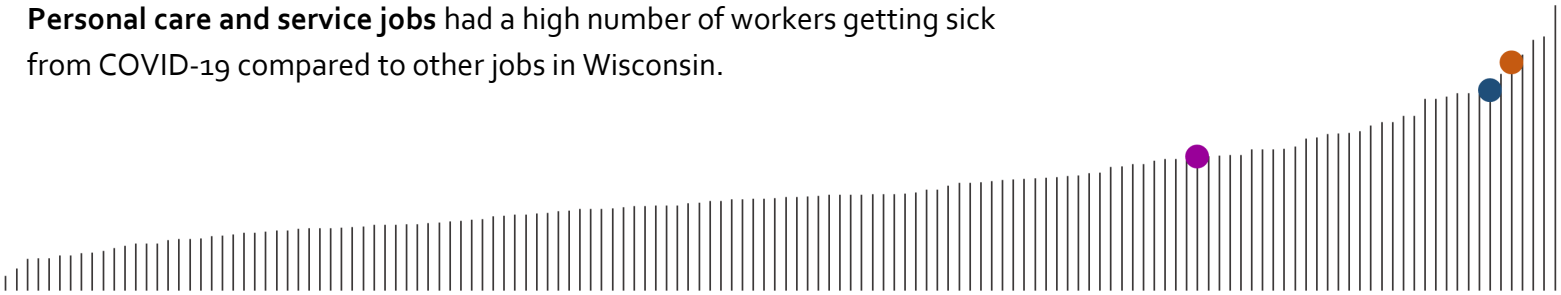
Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Health
dhsocchealth@dhs.wi.gov | P-03372A (01/2023)
Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health

Work-Related Incidence for COVID-19:

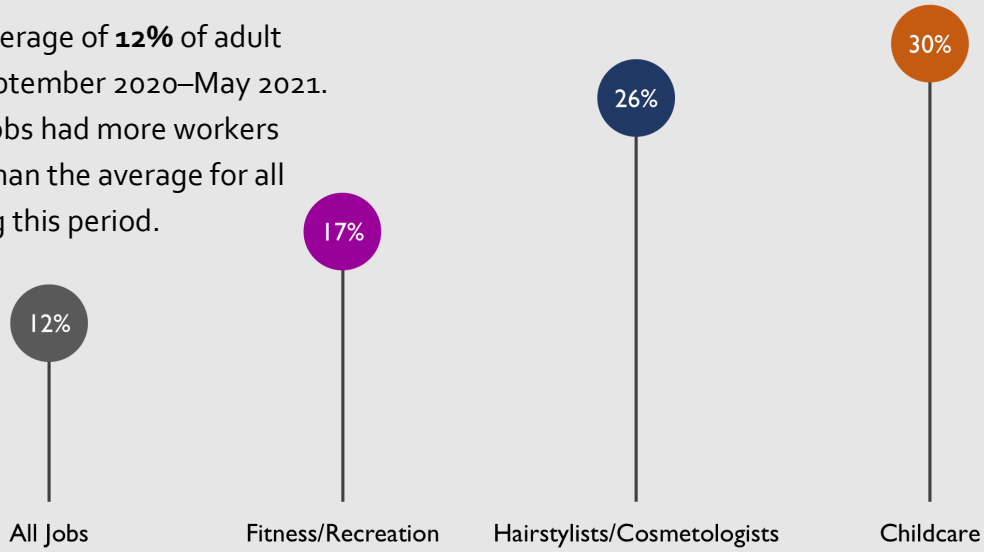
Personal Care and Services Workers

A study by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services found that among 144 jobs, **personal care and service jobs** had some of the highest rates of COVID-19. Among all the jobs included in the study, **childcare workers** had the fifth highest, **hairstylists and cosmetologists** had the seventh, and **fitness and recreation** workers had the 34th highest incidence of COVID-19 positive tests.

Personal care and service jobs had a high number of workers getting sick from COVID-19 compared to other jobs in Wisconsin.



Across all jobs in Wisconsin, an average of **12%** of adult workers had COVID-19 during September 2020–May 2021. Some personal care and service jobs had more workers getting infected with COVID-19 than the average for all jobs in the Wisconsin study during this period.



Stay healthy in the workplace!

- Wear a mask if you choose and respect the choice of others who wear one.
- Ask your employer about ways to increase air flow and ventilation in your workplace.
- Get the COVID-19 vaccine and stay up to date on your boosters.
- If you feel COVID-19 symptoms, get tested immediately.
- Get tested immediately if you feel COVID-19 symptoms.
- Let your close contacts know and follow the most recent CDC COVID-19 isolation guidelines if you test positive for COVID-19.

For more workplace safety resources visit:

Wisconsin Department of Health Occupational Health webpage

CDC COVID-19 Workplaces & Businesses webpage

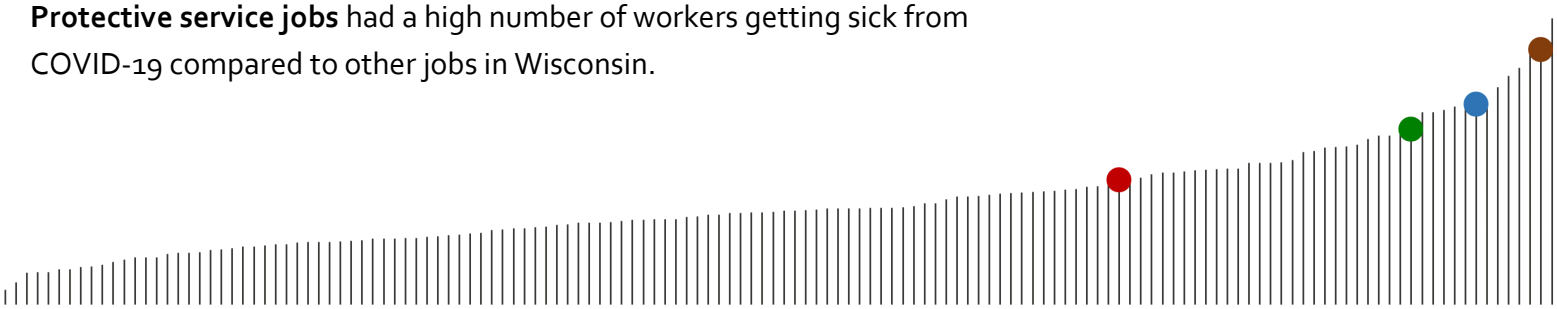
Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Health
dhsocchealth@dhs.wi.gov | P-03372B (01/2023)
Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health

Work-Related Incidence for COVID-19:

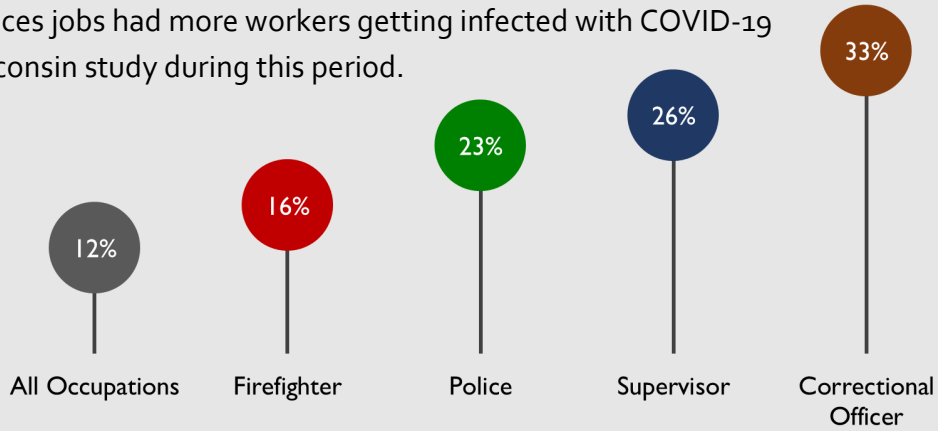
Protective Services Workers

A study by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services found that among 144 jobs, **protective service workers** stood out for having some of the highest rates of COVID-19. Among all the jobs included in the study, **correctional officers** had the second highest, **law enforcement supervisors** had the 8th highest, **police officers** had the 14th highest, and **firefighters** had the 41st highest incidence for COVID-19.

Protective service jobs had a high number of workers getting sick from COVID-19 compared to other jobs in Wisconsin.



Across all jobs in Wisconsin, an average of **12%** of adult workers had COVID-19 during September 2020–May 2021. Some protective services jobs had more workers getting infected with COVID-19 than the average for all jobs in the Wisconsin study during this period.



Stay healthy in the workplace!

- Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face.
- Wear a mask if you choose and respect the choice of others who wear one.
- Ask your employer about ways to increase air flow and ventilation in your workplace.
- Get the COVID-19 vaccine and stay up to date on your boosters.
- Get tested immediately if you feel COVID-19 symptoms.
- Let your close contacts know and follow the most recent CDC COVID-19 isolation guidelines if you test positive for COVID-19.

For more workplace safety resources visit:

Wisconsin Department of Health Occupational Health webpage

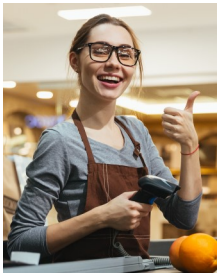
CDC COVID-19 Workplaces & Businesses webpage

Bureau of Occupational and Environmental Health
dhsocchealth@dhs.wi.gov | P-03372C (01/2023)
Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health

Worker's Compensation and COVID-19:

Work-related injuries and illnesses

Did you know: Worker's compensation covers work-related injuries and illnesses. Diseases that are caused or made worse by working conditions are often compensable. That means workers may receive compensation for time missed from work and medical expenses from being hurt or sick related to their work.



Example: COVID-19

Riley works in a grocery store and gets sick after becoming infected with COVID-19. Riley's doctor notes Riley is sick with COVID-19 symptoms and she likely contracted the virus through her work at the store. Riley can apply for compensation covering medical bills and lost wages from the original infection and Long COVID.

How? With any workplace injury or illness, workers need to be seen by a doctor who can confirm that the condition was likely related to work.

If the illness or injury is found to be "a work-related condition to a reasonable degree of medical probability," then the worker can file a claim.

If an employer or insurer disputes the claim, the employee has the right to request a hearing before an administrative law judge.

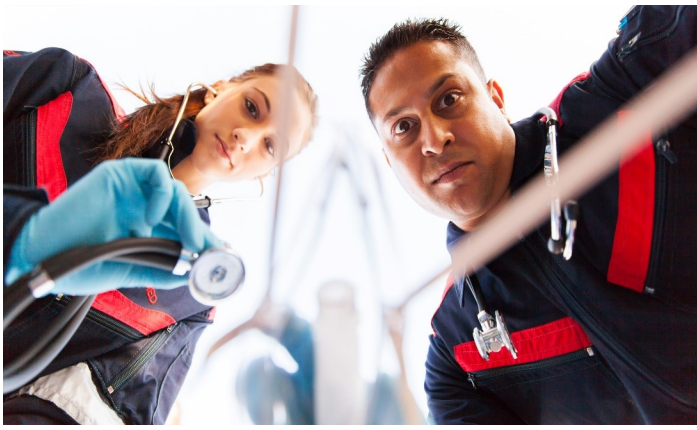
Learn more on the next page...

Very few claims* for worker's compensation benefits related to COVID-19 were reported to the state during the pandemic.

** Claims with fewer than three days of lost time from work generally do not need to be reported to the state, including claims for medical expenses related to COVID -19 that had less than three days of lost time from work.*

Out of all the infected workers, first responders (workers in health care, law enforcement, and fire departments) were most likely to:

- ✔ **File a worker's compensation claim**
- ✔ **Receive compensation**



A 2022 Wisconsin study of worker's compensation claims* found that:

- Fewer than 1 percent of working age adults with COVID applied for worker's compensation.
- Though most successful claims came from first responders, some workers in other industries successfully applied for compensation.
- Legal protections helped. Early in the pandemic, when first responders had additional, temporary legal protections, all workers had a better chance of receiving payment.

** Modji et al. "Lost time: COVID-19 indemnity claim reporting and results in the Wisconsin workers' compensation system from March 12 to December 31, 2022." American Journal of Industrial Medicine, Volume 65 Issue 12, December 2022. DOI: doi.org/10.1002/ajim.23428*

Most Important:

Workers, employers and healthcare providers should all know that infectious diseases may be covered by worker's compensation. **This is crucial knowledge for workers with Long COVID who were infected at work.**

Wisconsin Occupational Health and Safety Program | Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/occupational-health | dhsocchealth@dhs.wi.gov

P-03369 (01/2023)

Appendix B: Adult Lead Related Occupational Health Fact Sheets

1. **Lead testing: Also Important in Adults, P-01293**
2. **Lead and Your Health: No Amount of Lead is Safe, Even for Adults, P-01738**

LEAD TESTING:
ALSO IMPORTANT IN ADULTS

No amount of lead is safe, even for adults

Adults, Just Like Children, Can Have Lead Poisoning

Because adults can be exposed to lead in a variety of ways, it's important for health care providers to talk to their patients about lead exposure.

Common symptoms of lead poisoning in adults include nausea, constipation, upset stomach, fatigue, impaired concentration, hearing loss, and joint pain, among many others.[1] Lead poisoning in adults can have long-term effects, such as decreased fertility and high blood pressure. The severity of symptoms depends on the level of exposure; some people might show no symptoms at all. The only way to know if someone has lead poisoning is to do a blood lead test.

Three Ways Adults are at Risk

THEIR JOB

Common jobs with lead exposure include painting, welding, torch cutting, auto body paint work, renovation, radiator repair, bridge work, shooting range work, demolition, battery manufacturing, metal production, metal scrap work, ceramic work, soldering, and plumbing.[2]

THEIR HOBBIES

Hobbies such as casting bullets or fishing sinkers, home remodeling, target shooting at firing ranges, lead soldering, auto repair, stained glass making, and glazed pottery making can put adults at increased risk.[1]

THEIR REMEDIES AND HABITS

Some folk remedies, traditional medicines, health foods, moonshine whiskies, and ceramic wares can contain lead.[1] Individuals may try to self-treat lead poisoning with over-the-counter medication, which is not advised.

What Health Care Providers Can Do

Test any patients who may be exposed to lead.

- If the blood lead level is 3.5 µg/dL or higher, action is needed (see back side).
- If the blood lead level is below 3.5 µg/dL, monitor blood lead level if continued exposure is likely.

Recommend testing of household members. If the blood lead level is 3.5 µg/dL or higher, encourage testing for people who live in the home or visit it regularly, especially children and pregnant women.

Encourage activities that reduce exposure[1]:

- Wash hands before eating, drinking, or smoking.
- Wear a clean, properly fitted respirator in areas with lead dust or fumes.
- Keep items used on the job, such as toolboxes and lunch coolers, in the trunk of the car.
- Shower (if possible) and change into clean clothes and shoes after working with lead, preferably before going home.
- Launder lead-soiled clothes separately from other clothing.

References on back

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES | DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DHSENVHEALTH@WI.GOV | SEPTEMBER 2022 | P-01293 V21 (09/2022)

Health care providers can help ensure adult patients are lead-free.
Lead poisoning is dangerous but preventable!

Management Guidelines for Blood Lead Levels in Adults

According to the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists:

> Blood lead level monitoring (BLL) should be done on a schedule based on an individual's risk of exposure to lead. Primary management of lead poisoning is source identification and the elimination or reduction of further exposure.
>
> Treatment decisions, including chelation, should be made in consultation with a physician knowledgeable about lead poisoning medical management.[3]

Blood Lead Level	Management Recommendations[3]
<3.5	No action needed Monitor BLL if ongoing exposure
3.5-9	Discuss health risks Minimize exposure Consider removal for pregnancy and certain medical conditions Monitor BLL
10-19	Decrease exposure Remove from exposure for pregnancy Consider removal for certain medical conditions or BLL ≥10 for an extended period of time Monitor BLL
20-29	Remove from exposure for pregnancy Remove from exposure if repeat BLL in 4 weeks remains ≥20 Annual lead medical exam recommended
30-49	Remove from exposure Prompt medical evaluation
50-79	Remove from exposure Prompt medical evaluation Consider chelation with significant symptoms
≥80	Remove from exposure Urgent medical evaluation Chelation may be indicated

References

[1] *Lead Exposure in Adults—A Guide for Health Care Providers*. New York Department of Health, March 2009. Retrieved from https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2584/

[2] *If You Work Around Lead, Don't Take It Home* (OSHA Quick Card). Occupational Safety and Health Administration, June 2014.

[3] *Revised Management Guidelines for Blood Lead Levels in Adults*. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, Occupational Subcommittee, December 2021. Retrieved from https://www.cste.org/page/CSTEPublications

Icon credits: The Noun Project users @LuisPrado, DKHN, and Stephen Hemenway

Questions about lead poisoning and treatment?
dhsenvhealth@wi.gov

Lead and Your Health

No Amount of Lead is Safe, Even for Adults.

What is lead?

- Lead is a poisonous metal that can be found in common items like paint and fishing sinkers.
- Lead poisoning is caused by swallowing or breathing lead dust and fumes.
- Lead fumes and dust don't have a smell.
- Lead builds up in the body over time. Swallowing or breathing small amounts repeatedly can be harmful. A one-time large amount can also be harmful.

How does lead make me sick?

- Lead can cause permanent harm, including brain and nerve damage, kidney failure, reproductive problems, and other health issues.
- Lead can harm your health before it causes any symptoms.

How do workers get lead poisoning?

- Workers can get lead poisoning when working near lead dust, lead-based products, and lead fumes. Lead dust comes from sanding or sandblasting areas coated with lead paint.
- Workers can make lead fumes by torching areas coated with lead paint, working with lead solder, or melting lead in a furnace or pot.

How can my family be poisoned if I work near lead?

- Lead dust can settle on work clothes and you can bring it into your home.
- Lead is especially dangerous for children and pregnant women.
- Change clothes and shoes before you leave work and shower if possible.

What else can cause lead poisoning?

- Shooting bullets containing lead
- Remodeling or renovation
- Melting metal that has lead; for example, when casting bullets or fishing lures
- Working with stained glass or pottery
- Eating from leaded cookware
- Drinking water with lead, usually due to lead pipes.
- Drinking other liquids that have lead in them.

How can I find out if I have lead poisoning?

- A simple blood lead level (BLL) test can show if you have lead poisoning or not.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says no one should have a blood lead level more than 3.5 µg/dL (test levels are measured in µg/dL).

What is the best treatment?

- Your doctor can tell you what to do to lower the amount of lead in your body.
- The most important way to lower lead levels in your body is to remove yourself from the lead source.

More Information

1. Learn more about lead in the workplace: **go.usa.gov/xKtn4**
2. Learn more about what personal protective equipment you need for your job: **go.usa.gov/x9tDU**
3. Call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) to learn more about lead and your work.
4. Wisconsin Occupational Health can be reached at 608-266-1120.

Wisconsin Occupational Health Program
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health
Wisconsin Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health
https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov | P-01738 V2 (09/2022)

Appendix C: More Occupational Health Fact Sheets

1. **Workplace Safety Matters: Wisconsin Occupational Health 2019 Indicator Snapshot, P-01593**
2. **Silicosis: What Employers Need to Know, P-03261**
3. **Silicosis: What Workers Need to Know, P-03262**
4. **Blastomycosis: Employers and Workers, P-03246**
5. **TCE in the Workplace, P-03201**
6. **What Employers Should Know About Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), P-03308**
7. **What Workers Should Know About Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), P-03308A**

Workplace Safety Matters

Wisconsin Occupational Health

20 19 Indica tor Snap -

Workplace Deaths

113 Wisconsin workers died from workplace injuries in 2019.

In other words…
one worker died every **3 days**

Work deaths were almost **2 times** more common among Hispanic workers compared to non-Hispanic workers...

...and over **6 times** more common for male workers compared to female workers.

44% of work deaths occurred in the industries of:

trade, transportation, & utilities

and

natural resources & mining

Workplace Injuries

65,500 reported workplace injuries and illnesses.

120 workers lost body parts due to work.

Sprains, strains & tears were the most common reasons for missed work days.

Overuse & repetitive movements were the most common ways workers got hurt.

Jobs with the most injuries:

- Sales work and Truck driving
- Nursing and Home health aides
- Stock and Material Moving
- Building cleaning
- Carpentry and Construction
- Food preparation

Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health | Wisconsin Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health | dhs.wisconsin.gov/occupational-health | P-01593 | August 2022

For resources to help you stay safe and healthy at the work, visit wisconsin.dhs.gov/occupational-health.

Sources available upon request.
Email dhsocchealth@wi.gov for more information.

Silicosis: what *employers* need to know

Silicosis is a dangerous, but preventable disease.

Silicosis is an incurable lung disease caused by breathing in crystalline silica dust.

Crystalline silica dust is created from materials containing silica.

Breathing in silica dust for extended periods of time can cause permanent lung damage and possibly death.

Some jobs and tasks put people at risk for silicosis.

Concrete, stone, mortar, and asphalt are a few materials that contain crystalline silica.

Drilling, grinding, sanding, and chipping these types of materials can create silica dust, increasing the risk for silicosis.

Industries with known risk:

- Construction
- Masonry
- Foundries
- Stone fabrication
- Mining
- Dentistry

Flip for more info!

Minimize exposure to silica dust in the workplace:

- **Train employees** on the hazards of silica dust, tasks involving silica, and ways to eliminate exposure.
- **Install dust control systems and equipment** such as local exhaust ventilation systems equipped with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration, machinery with water spraying features, and hand tools with HEPA equipped vacuum dust shrouds.
- **Implement safe work practices**, including the use of wet methods when cutting, and HEPA filter vacuums when cleaning. Avoid dry sweeping, dry cutting, or using compressed air to clean.
- **Develop a written respiratory protection program.**
- **Provide and train workers to use respirators that protect against particulates**, such as half and full face air purifying respirators, or N95 masks. Provide respirators when engineering controls cannot reduce worker exposure to silica.
- Offer and encourage employee participation in **medical monitoring for silicosis** as required by OSHA.
- **Read OSHA's Small Entity Compliance Guide for Construction and General Industry and Maritime** for the respirable crystalline silica standard.
- **Conduct air monitoring when necessary**.[1] OSHA standard 1926.1153 (d) explains monitoring options.

Know the symptoms of silicosis.

Silicosis can increase the risk of contracting other lung diseases, such as lung cancer and tuberculosis. It is crucial to realize symptoms early.

Cough | Shortness of breath | Fatigue | Chest Pain

Medical monitoring for silicosis should include:

- Medical and work history, including status and history relating to tuberculosis and smoking
- A physical exam focusing on the respiratory system
- A digital or film chest X-ray interpreted by a NIOSH-certified B-reader
- A lung function (spirometry) test administered by a NIOSH-certified technician
- Testing for latent tuberculosis infection
- Any other tests deemed medically necessary and related to respirable crystalline silica exposure by a physician or other licensed health care professional

For more information visit:

Wisconsin DHS Occupational Lung Disease webpage

WisCon

OSHA Crystalline Silica topic page

CDC Silica topic page

1. If unable to follow **Table 1** of OSHA **Standard 1926.1153** conduct air monitoring to ensure that the 8-hour time weighted average (TWA) for silica levels are below the action level (25 µg/m^3) and permissible levels (50 µg/m^3). Provide appropriate respiratory protection as necessary. At minimum, conduct air monitoring if a change in production, process, control equipment, personnel, or work practices may result in new or additional exposure at or above the action level.

Silicosis: what ***workers*** need to know

Silicosis is a dangerous, but preventable disease.

Silicosis is an incurable lung disease caused by breathing in crystalline silica dust.

Crystalline silica dust is created from materials containing silica.

Breathing in silica dust for extended periods of time can cause permanent lung damage and possibly death.

Some jobs and tasks put people at risk for silicosis.

Concrete, stone, mortar, and asphalt are a few materials that contain crystalline silica.

Drilling, grinding, sanding, and chipping these materials can create silica dust, increasing the risk of developing silicosis.

Industries with known risk:

Construction

Masonry

Foundries

Stone fabrication

Mining

Dentistry

Flip for more info!

Minimize your exposure to silica dust when working with materials containing silica:

- **Use available dust control equipment and systems** such as local exhaust ventilation systems equipped with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration, machinery with water spraying features, and hand tools with HEPA equipped vacuum dust shrouds.
- **Use safe work practices** such as wet methods that use water sprays to control dust when cutting, and vacuums equipped with HEPA filtration when cleaning. Avoid dry sweeping, dry cutting, and using compressed air.
- **Wear a respirator with dust protection features**, such as half and full face air purifying respirators, or N95 masks. Respirators should be used with engineering controls and safe work practices.
- **Avoid eating or drinking in dusty areas.**
- **Shower and/or change into clean clothing before leaving the worksite** to avoid contaminating cars, homes, and other work areas.
- **Participate in any medical monitoring, air monitoring, or training programs offered by your employer.**

Contact your doctor if you have silicosis symptoms.

Expect to:

- Share details about your work history.
- Complete a physical examination.
- Participate in diagnostic tests such as chest X-rays and lung function tests.

For more information visit:

Wisconsin DHS Occupational Lung Disease webpage

OSHA Crystalline Silica topic page

CDC Silica topic page

BLASTOMYCOSIS: Employers and Workers

Blastomycosis is an uncommon illness caused by a fungus. This fungus is so small it cannot be seen by the human eye. About half of people with Blastomycosis will not feel sick. People with a weakened immune system or a chronic illness are more likely to get sick.

How is it spread?

- Blastomycosis is spread through some types of soil or dirt. When dirt is moved, fungus can get into the air. You then may breathe in fungus from the air. The fungus can also enter through cuts in your skin, but it is not as common.
- The fungus grows in rich, moist soil that wasn't moved for a long time, especially along the banks of waterways near pine trees.
- Blastomycosis cannot be spread person-to-person.

Blastomycosis is rare but can be a serious illness for those who get it:

1 out of 10 Wisconsinites with Blastomycosis dies every year.

What types of workers might be at risk?

In areas where the fungus is common, jobs that involve digging or moving soil have a higher risk of blastomycosis. Examples include people who work in:

- Soil disruption (digging or excavation).
- Plant matter disruption (handling trees, landscaping).
- Outdoor demolition, construction, or renovation .
- Placement and maintenance of wells, septic systems, or utility lines.
- Activities along waterways (dam or dock maintenance, harvesting aquatic life, surveying).

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms will not show up right away. You may start feeling sick 3-15 weeks after breathing in the fungus.

Fever or chills | **Cough** | **Shortness of breath** | **Chest or back pain** | **Skin sores that look crusted or get bigger** | **Feeling very tired**

Flip over for more info!

What should you do if you have symptoms?

- **See a doctor or nurse** if your symptoms do not get better or become worse.
- **Bring this fact sheet and explain that you are at risk of blastomycosis.** Since blastomycosis is rare and many of the symptoms are common, doctors and nurses may not test for it unless they know you are at risk.
- **Make sure you get the right treatment.** People are usually treated with antifungal medicine for several months.

How can I prevent getting blastomycosis while working?

There is no test to see if the fungus that causes blastomycosis is in the soil before work begins. If work must be done in moist areas where the fungus is more common, take these steps:

- Do not dig or move soil on windy days.
- Use a cover to store soil and yard materials.
- Move yard litter only when dry.
- Make sure there is water drainage near work areas.
- Install walkways (e.g., launches, docks, clearings) when working close to water. Then you will not move the soil when you walk.
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) and know the symptoms of blastomycosis.

Those with a weakened immune system or lung problems:

Avoid working in outdoor areas where the fungus grows or wear PPE.

What PPE can help protect me?

- **Facemask or respirator:** A facemask will help, and a high-quality respirator (N95, N99) provides the most protection.
- **Eye protection**.
- **Gloves** to protect your hands from scratches.
- **Clothes and shoes that can be taken off at the worksite** (e.g., disposable or washable coveralls, boots, hat, helmet).

For more information visit:
dhs.wi.gov/disease/blastomycosis.htm

TCE in the Workplace

What is TCE?

Trichloroethylene, or TCE, is a human-made chemical with properties that make it useful in a number of industrial processes and consumer products. TCE is often used as a metal degreaser and in the production of refrigerant and other chemicals. It is found in a number of consumer products, including adhesives, lubricants, paints, varnishes, paint strippers, pesticides, and condenser coil cleaner. TCE is a popular chemical in the textile processing and dry cleaning industries for cleaning cotton, wool, and other fabrics.

TCE is a chlorinated solvent.

The chemical structure of TCE has chlorine atoms that help to dissolve organic materials like fats and greases. This makes it a useful chemical for removing grease from metal and stains from cloth, but also potentially harmful to human and environmental health.

How are workers exposed to TCE?

TCE is a volatile chemical, which means that it can easily turn from liquid to vapor, which can be breathed in. The skin, eyes, and mouth can also absorb TCE after direct contact. TCE can present health risks to workers who handle the liquid or who breathe in TCE vapor without wearing proper safety gear.

How can TCE affect a worker's health?

Skin contact with high concentrations of TCE may cause skin irritation, such as a rash. Breathing in medium to high concentrations of TCE may cause headaches, dizziness, and sleepiness, while extremely high concentrations may cause coma and even death. Repeated exposures to TCE over long periods of time may cause cancer.[1]

While exposure to TCE can affect everyone, newer evidence shows that TCE exposure during pregnancy can have serious effects on the developing fetus, including an increased risk of heart defects. This can happen at low levels of TCE and very early in pregnancy, before someone may know that they are pregnant. Therefore, workplaces should take action to prevent harmful TCE exposures at all times, and especially for workers who are or may become pregnant.

Pregnant individuals should avoid exposure to TCE.

TCE can be especially harmful for the developing fetus—even when indoor air levels of TCE are low. At low levels, TCE has no odor to warn that contaminants are in the air.

What workplace guidelines are available for TCE?

The following workplace guidelines are available for TCE in air:

Year Issued	Issuing Institution or Agency	Guideline Type	Guideline
1978	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)[2]	Recommended exposure limit	25 ppm*
1989	Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA)[3]	Permissible exposure limit	100 ppm
2006	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists[3] (ACGIH)	8-hour time-weighted average	10 ppm
		Short-term exposure limit	25 ppm
2017	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)[4]‡	Vapor action level	1.6 ppbV†

*ppm = parts per million; †1.6 parts per billion by volume (ppbV) = 8.8 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$)
‡ Wisconsin DHS recognizes recent research which demonstrates that much lower levels of TCE can be harmful to workers. Unlike older national guidelines, Wisconsin DNR's vapor action level for TCE takes newer evidence of fetal toxicity into consideration.

What are ways to keep workers safe?

Employers should minimize worker exposures to TCE and implement best management practices to reduce TCE in the workplace.

- Use alternative solvents that do not have the reproductive and carcinogenic risks of TCE.
- Store TCE in well-sealed containers in a designated chemical storage location that is away from air intakes for heating, ventilation, and cooling (HVAC) systems.
- Maintain HVAC systems and ensure adequate ventilation in critical areas where TCE is highly used, such as in pouring, mixing, or application settings.
- Develop and keep handy safety protocols to address TCE spills.
- Train workers who handle TCE directly in proper personal protective equipment (PPE) use and handling techniques.
- Monitor indoor air levels of TCE and strive to maintain them below Wisconsin's Vapor Action Levels[4] for small commercial and industrial workplace settings for the best worker protection.
- Educate workers, and especially those of childbearing age, on TCE health risks.
- Assign pregnant individuals to areas or job categories that do not involve direct handling of TCE. If an alternative job assignment is not possible, medically-cleared pregnant workers should wear respirators containing an organic vapor cartridge when directly handling TCE.

Contact us for help.

The Wisconsin Safety and Health Consultation Program provides free services to measure worker exposures and explore solvent alternatives. Call 800-947-0553 or visit http://slh.wisc.edu/wiscon for more information. DHS staff are also available to consult on this topic: Send an email to DHSEnvHealth@dhs.wi.gov.

References

1. ATSDR. Trichloroethylene - ToxFAQs. https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsDetails.aspx?faqid=172&toxid=30.
2. NIOSH. Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards, Appendix C—Supplementary Exposure Limits. https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/nengapdxc.html.
3. OSHA. OSHA Occupational Chemical Database—TRICHLOROETHYLENE. https://www.osha.gov/chemicaldata/684.
4. WI DNR. Guidance: Wisconsin Vapor Quick Look-Up Table, Indoor Air Vapor Action Levels and Vapor Risk Screening Levels.

What *Employers* Should Know About Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza spreads mainly among domesticated and wild birds.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a disease caused by avian influenza Type A virus.

The virus spreads through the saliva, mucous, and feces of infected birds.

Bird products, such as eggs and uncooked poultry, and bird carcasses can also spread the virus.

The risk of humans getting avian flu is low, but infections have happened among highly exposed individuals.

People who work or live around domestic poultry, and others who might have direct contact with wild birds or poultry could be at risk of exposure to avian flu, like hunters and bird enthusiasts. Unprotected contact with infected birds or bird product increases the risk of human avian flu infection. If the virus gets in the eyes, nose or mouth, or is inhaled via dust or droplets, humans may get sick. Contact with contaminated surfaces can also spread avian flu from birds to humans.

If human illness from avian flu is rare, why is it important that I protect against it?

- Past outbreaks of avian influenza caused severe illness and death in some people, particularly poultry workers and others who were highly exposed to the virus without protection.
- It is possible that the virus can mutate and increase its ability to spread from bird to human and from human to human more often and more quickly.

Flip for more info!

Know the possible signs and symptoms of human avian flu infection.

The early signs and symptoms of avian flu are similar to those of seasonal flu. Laboratory testing is required to diagnose someone with avian flu. Your local health department can provide resources to help set up testing.

- Fever (Temperature of 100˚F [37.8˚C])
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Eye irritation
- Body aches
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Headaches

How can you protect your workers against avian influenza?

- Encourage workers to receive the current season's influenza vaccine to reduce the possibility of dual infection with avian and human influenza viruses.
- Ensure employees use personal protective equipment (PPE) when in direct contact with potentially infected birds or bird products. PPE includes:
  - Properly-fitted unvented or indirectly vented safety goggles.
  - Boots or boot covers.
  - NIOSH-approved respirators, like a N95 mask.
  - Disposable gloves.
  - Disposable fluid-resistant coveralls and hair/head covers.
- Direct employees to put on and remove PPE in a clean area, separate from sick birds and bird products.
- Ensure reusable PPE (rubber boots and rubber aprons) are cleaned and disinfected by EPA-approved disinfectants with a label with claims against Influenza A viruses.
- Instruct workers to avoid unprotected direct contact with sick birds, poultry carcasses, feces or litter, and water that may be contaminated with sick bird excretions.

It is important to take precautionary actions against the virus while working with birds and bird products, even if an outbreak has not been detected at your worksite.

- Be alert for sick or dying birds. This can be a sign of HPAI. Call your veterinarian or DATCP if you think there may be HPAI in your flock.
- Have a site-specific biosecurity plan that contains rules and procedures to help keep employees and birds healthy.

What happens if there is an outbreak of avian flu among birds in the workplace?

1. The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will contact the health department.
2. The health department contacts the employer to get contact information for workers exposed to HPAI to begin self-monitoring.
3. The DATCP will work with the employer to clear the worksite of infected birds and bird products.
4. If a worker has symptoms, the employer should direct them to contact the health department as soon as possible.
5. If no symptoms develop, the worker ends self-monitoring after 10 days of being away from the infected site.

Who is responsible for monitoring employees for avian flu?

The local health department will coordinate monitoring of employees for avian flu after contacting the employer.

The employer should provide the following for all individuals exposed to infected birds or bird products:

- Name, phone number, and address
- Contractor names and contact information, or the contact information for their contracting company

How will the information provided to the public health department be used?

Under state law (Chapter 252), the local public health department has the authority to take measures necessary to control communicable diseases in their jurisdiction, including contacting individuals who have been exposed to avian flu. Names, addresses, and contact information of employees obtained by public health are considered **protected health information**. It will never be used for regulatory action against a business or employee. **Symptoms or test results reported as a part of self-monitoring will be confidential and only shared as needed to prevent the spread of the disease.**

Flip for more info!

What is self-monitoring?

Self-monitoring is checking yourself for signs and symptoms of an illness and reporting your observations to the public health department.

Who should self-monitor?

Anyone who worked on or near the affected premises in direct contact with birds or bird products from **3 days prior to the first bird illness until all birds are removed** and the area is disinfected.

Why is self-monitoring important?

Self-monitoring helps prevent the spread of bird flu between humans, even though it is rare. It enables public health officials to connect you to testing, medical care, and other resources to help you and prevent further spread of the disease and minimize disruption to business.

What happens if someone gets sick?

If an employee gets sick during the monitoring period, they should:

- Call their local health department right away to set up avian influenza testing and next steps.
- Stay home from work and avoid contact with others until the test results are back.

What to do when self-monitoring?

Self-monitoring should be done **once per day**. Individuals working at the infected site should **self-monitor daily until 10 days after the site has been disinfected.**

Check for fever daily.

Be alert for flu-like symptoms.

Provide daily updates about symptoms to the public health department.

For more information visit:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/influenza/avian.htm

datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AvianInfluenza.aspx

www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian

www.osha.gov/avian-flu

BUREAU OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/bcd.htm | March 2023 | DHSDPHBCD@dhs.wi.gov

Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health | P-03308 (03/2023)

What *Workers* Should Know About Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

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Bird products, such as eggs and uncooked poultry, and bird carcasses can also spread the virus.

The risk of humans getting avian flu is low, but infections have happened among highly exposed individuals.

People who work or live around domestic poultry, and others who might have direct contact with wild birds or poultry could be at risk of exposure to avian flu, like hunters or bird enthusiasts. Unprotected contact with infected birds or bird product increases the risk of human avian flu infection. If the virus gets in the eyes, nose, or mouth, or is inhaled via dust or droplets, humans may get sick. Contact with contaminated surfaces can also spread avian flu from birds to humans.

If human illness from avian flu is rare, why is it important that I protect against it?

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Flip for more info!

Know the possible signs and symptoms of avian influenza infection in humans.

The early signs and symptoms of avian flu are similar to those of seasonal flu. Laboratory testing is required to diagnose someone with avian flu.

- Fever (Temperature of 100˚F [37.8˚C])
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Eye irritation
- Body aches
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Headaches

How can I protect against avian influenza?

- Get the current season's influenza vaccine to reduce the possibility of dual infection with avian and human influenza viruses.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) when in direct contact with potentially infected birds or bird products. PPE includes:
  - Properly-fitted unvented or indirectly vented safety goggles.
  - Boots or boot covers.
  - NIOSH-approved respirators, like an N95 mask.
  - Disposable gloves.
  - Disposable fluid-resistant coveralls and hair/head covers.
- Put on and remove PPE in a clean area, separate from sick birds and bird products.
- Ensure reusable PPE (rubber boots and rubber aprons) are cleaned and disinfected by EPA-approved disinfectants with a label with claims against Influenza A viruses.
- Avoid unprotected direct contact with sick birds, poultry carcasses, feces or litter, and water that may be contaminated with sick bird excretions.

It is important to take actions to protect yourself from the virus while working with birds and bird products, even if an outbreak has not been detected at your worksite.
Ask your employer if they have a site-specific biosecurity plan that contains rules and procedures to help keep employees and birds healthy.

What happens if there is an outbreak of avian flu among birds in the workplace?

1. The health department contacts the worker to set up self-monitoring and provide needed PPE.
2. While continuing to work on-site, the worker self-monitors for symptoms of avian flu.
3. The employer will be instructed on how to prevent the spread of the virus to workers.
4. If a worker has symptoms, they should contact the health department immediately. They may be directed to get tested.
5. If no symptoms develop, the worker ends self-monitoring after 10 days of being away from the infected site.

What is self-monitoring?

Self-monitoring is checking yourself for signs and symptoms of an illness and reporting your observations to the public health department.

Who should self-monitor?

Anyone who worked on or near the affected premises in direct contact with birds or bird products from **3 days prior to the first bird illness until all birds are removed** and the area is disinfected.

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Flip for more info!

What to do when I self-monitor?

Self-monitoring should be done **once per day**. Complete self-monitoring **daily** while working at the infected site, until 10 days after the site has been disinfected.

Do a daily temperature check for fever.

Be alert for flu-like symptoms.

Provide daily updates about symptoms to the public health department.

What happens if I get sick?

If you have severe symptoms, go to a hospital or call your doctor immediately and tell them you are being monitored for avian influenza.

If you get sick during the monitoring period:

- Call your local health department so they can help you set up avian influenza testing.
- Stay home from work and avoid contact with others until the test results are back.

If the test results are positive for avian influenza, advice will be given on next steps.

Who will collect my self-monitoring information?

Your local health department will contact you to set up self-monitoring.

They will:

- Explain the importance of self-monitoring.
- Give you the option to self-monitor using a daily text or email.
- Answer your questions about self-monitoring and avian influenza.

They will ask you to provide your:

- Name.
- Phone number.
- Home address.
- Email address.

Who will have access to my personal information?

Names, addresses, and contact information of employees obtained by public health are considered **protected health information**. It will never be used for regulatory action against a business or employee. This confidentiality is required by state and federal law. **Symptoms or test results you report as a part of self-monitoring will be confidential and only shared with your employer and the public health department as needed to prevent the spread of the disease.**

For more information visit:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/influenza/avian.htm

www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian

www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm

www.osha.gov/avian-flu

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