

Green Bay Has 2nd-Highest Growth Rate of COVID-19 Cases in Country

Written by Priorities Wisconsin, Cassidy Geoghegan
Thursday, 30 April 2020 10:33 -

<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/covid-19-workers-meatpacking-s5.jpg>



City identified as new coronavirus hotspot in New York Times report. Brown County beef-processing companies are major source of 1,000% surge in a week. Trump forces workers back in despite hazard.

MADISON - According to a New York Times [report](#), Green Bay has the second-highest average daily growth rate of coronavirus cases in the United States, identifying the city as a possible new coronavirus hotspot. Yesterday, Trump [issued](#)

an executive order calling on meat-processing plants to remain open, declaring them critical infrastructure.

As you know, public health officials have connected over half of Brown County's cases to two beef-processing companies and a sausage-maker. Of the county residents who've tested positive so far, [255 are employees](#) of JBS Packerland. The meatpacking plant is temporarily closed.

At a time when Trump remains laser focused on reopening the economy at the expense of Americans' health and well-being, communities like Green Bay are still struggling to get the virus under control. According to [Green Bay Press Gazette](#), in a week, cases in Brown County increased by 1,000% to surpass 500. "With 618 confirmed cases as of Friday, the state's fourth most-populous county now trails only Milwaukee County in Wisconsin. Brown County has the highest rate of tests coming back positive, at 26%."

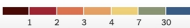
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Highest avg. daily growth rate of cases

METRO OR MICRO AREA	RECENT CASES	DAILY GROWTH RATE	CASES DOUBLE EVERY...
1 Sioux City, Iowa	1,322	99%	1.0 days
2 Green Bay, Wis.	834	27%	2.9 days
3 Waterloo-Ced.Falls, Iowa	912	21%	3.6 days
4 Amarillo, Texas	437	16%	4.7 days
5 Des Moines, Iowa	772	16%	4.8 days
6 Grand Rapids, Mich.	1,154	14%	5.4 days
7 Fargo, N.D.	456	13%	5.6 days
8 Fayetteville, N.C.	179	13%	5.9 days
9 Salisbury, Md.	1,800	12%	6.0 days
10 Atlantic City, N.J.	584	12%	6.0 days
11 Bowling Green, Ky.	296	12%	6.1 days
12 Rockford, Ill.	332	12%	6.1 days
13 Vineland-Bridgeton, N.J.	458	12%	6.2 days
14 Gallup, N.M.	616	11%	6.5 days
15 Grand Forks, N.D.	247	11%	6.7 days
170 New York City area	126,008	3%	28.0 days



As I've mentioned previously, the missing piece of this puzzle — Trump's original sin and the reason why we haven't been able to open up our economy sooner — is our country's lack of widespread testing. According to [WPR](#), "Wisconsin has the capacity to conduct around 11,000 tests per day, but it's currently conducting about 2,000 due to the shortage of testing materials and protective equipment."

We as a nation are [currently testing just over 218,000 people a day](#). We are nowhere near where we need to be. Even the White House's [goal of testing 2 percent of the population](#) in each state would leave us far short of the tests we would need to reopen. According to a recent [report](#)

"We need to deliver 5 million tests per day by early June to deliver a safe social reopening.

This number will need to increase over time (ideally by late July) to 20 million a day to fully remobilize the economy. We acknowledge that even this number

may not be high enough to protect public health."

By [not acting when he was first alerted](#) of the impending crisis, Trump put us far behind where we should be. Instead of recognizing and correcting this failure, he's continued to avoid responsibility at every turn.

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While Wisconsin is starting to figure out what reopening might look like, it's important to remember that any [path to normalcy will require increased testing](#) . As long as this administration [fails to provide increased testing capacity](#) , any discussion of a return to normalcy is purely academic.

If you have further questions, or wish to speak to a Wisconsinite who used to work at JBS Packerland, please let me know.

Best,

Cassidy