



Health Department

Empowered to Live Well

August 6, 2020

The Health Department has received a number of inquiries about the data used to determine the coronavirus “disease burden.” Burden rate allows for a more equal comparison of the prevalence of virus in individual communities, and is calculated as the total number of COVID-19 cases over a 14-day period by population, and then multiplied by 100,000. Through July 18, the burden rate was as follows ...

- South Milwaukee: 376
- St. Francis: 384

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, considers a burden status greater than 100 as “high.” Our current burden rate continues a troubling trend from July, when there was significantly increased virus spread in both South Milwaukee and St. Francis.

You can find burden data at the county level located on the state Department of Health website <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>, with additional county data here: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/018eedbe075046779b8062b5fe1055bf>.

Municipal data is critical to make informed decisions. That is why all local health departments are working in coordination through the Milwaukee County Unified Emergency Operations Center and the Medical College of Wisconsin to set up an epidemiology team to look at local data in Milwaukee County. This team has calculated the burden rate for each municipality. Currently, the burden rates of South Milwaukee and St. Francis are among the highest in the county -- higher than the City of Milwaukee, as of July 18.

This team also looks at the percent of positive cases of those tested that offers a trajectory to demonstrate if we are growing, shrinking, or have no significant change. State and federal health officials say a “percent positive” number of 5% or below is considered ideal for an in-person learning model. For the two weeks ending July 28, 10% of South Milwaukee’s tests came back positive, 7% in St. Francis. These percentages indicate no significant change from previous weeks.

The South Milwaukee and St. Francis School Districts meet with the health department weekly to receive updates on disease burden and other topics. Data used to make recent school board decisions is for the time period with the most complete information, as there is a time delay in receipt of test results. Burden data, through July 18, follows on the next two pages.

Please be vigilant in slowing the spread of COVID-19, and mask up.

Jackie Ove, Public Health Administrator



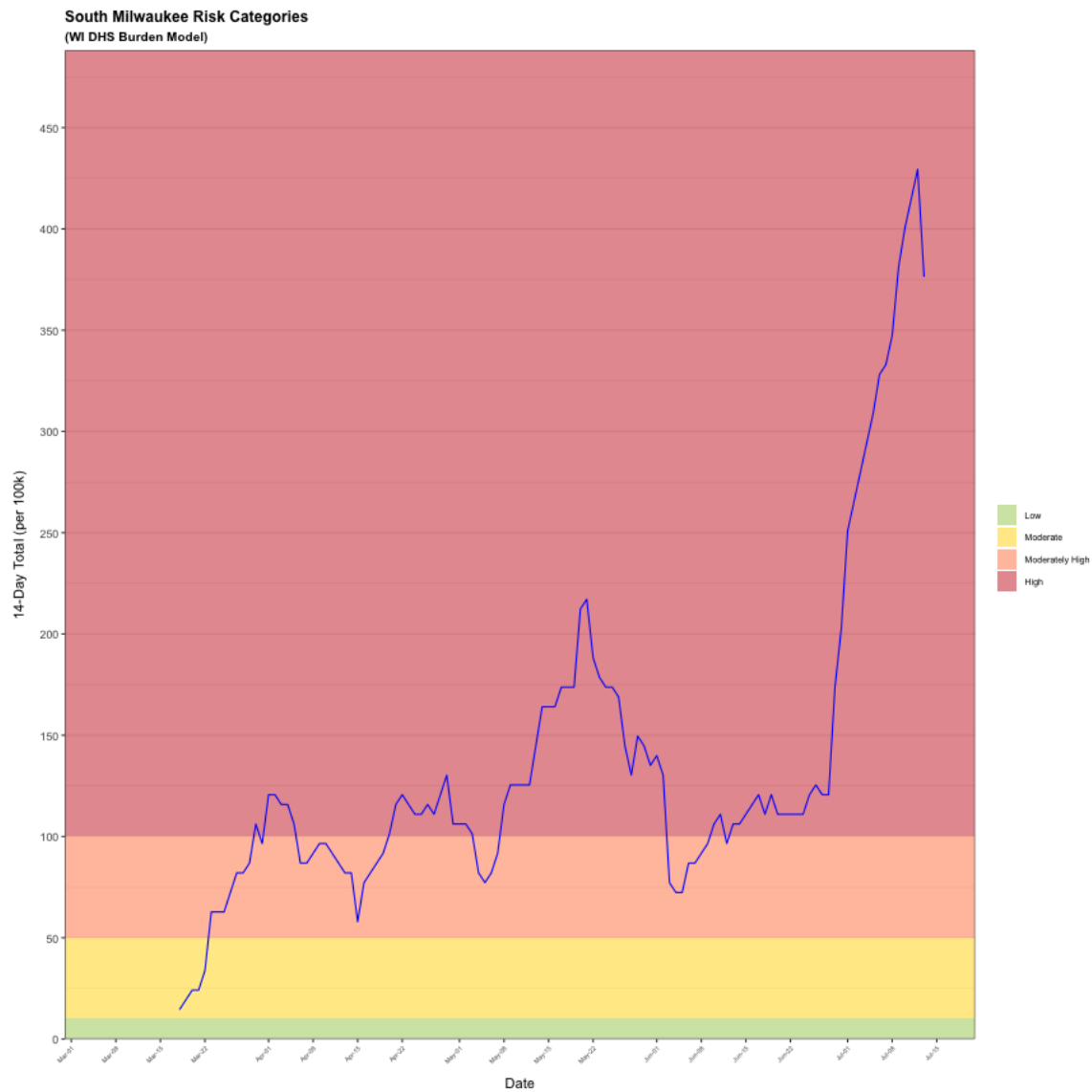
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South Milwaukee

Burden of Disease calculated for the time period of 07/04/2020-07/18/2020

- # of new South Milwaukee COVID-19 cases (laboratory confirmed): 78
- 78 cases divided by population of 20,725 = 0.00376
- 0.00376 multiplied by 100,000 = burden rate of 376





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Saint Francis

Burden of Disease calculated for the time period of 07/04/2020-07/18/2020

- # of new St. Francis COVID-19 cases (laboratory confirmed): 36
- 36 cases divided by population of 9,381 = 0.003837
- 0.003837 multiplied by 100,000 = burden rate of 384

