

We all want to know the future of COVID-19 in Wisconsin, including the impact on our health care system or when things like “shelter in place” might end. Predicting this rapidly changing situation is very difficult, so rather than try, the following describes the key facts and variables to understand and the actions needed to get us through this as soon and safely as possible.

## TAKING STEPS

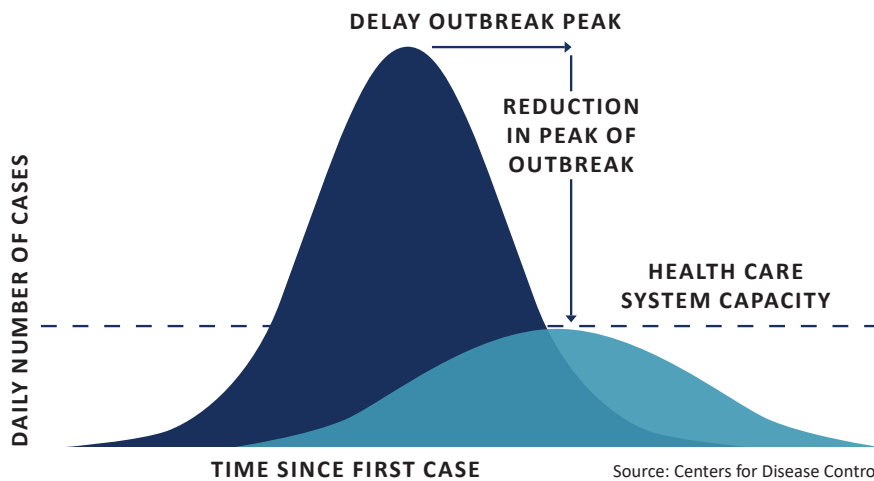
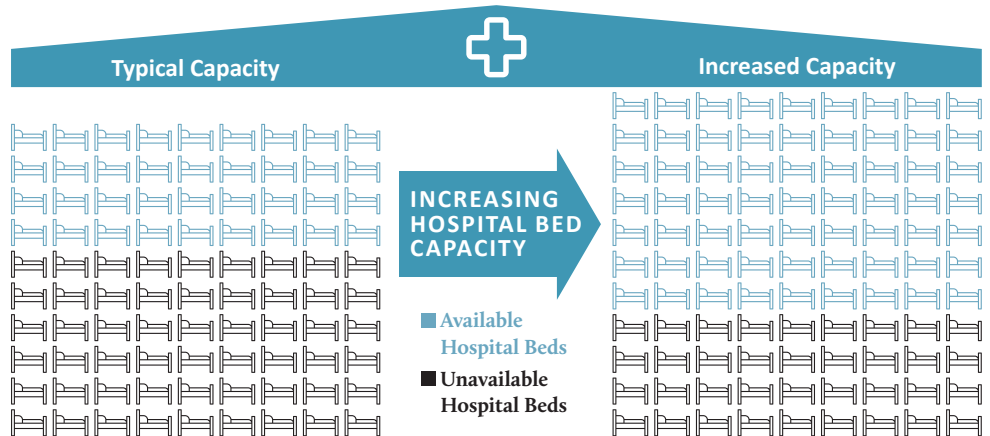
Heeding calls by the U.S. Surgeon General and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Wisconsin hospitals have already taken significant steps to prepare for COVID-19, like postponing elective surgeries and procedures and planning for additional beds, preserving scarce personal protective equipment (PPE) and reducing risk of exposure.

### Wisconsin Hospitals: TYPICAL STATUS

 **11,000 beds**

 **60% full**

*Halting scheduled/elective procedures is necessary to address COVID-19, but it also impacts hospital operating revenue and cash flow, creating increasingly difficult financial challenges for a growing number of hospitals.*



## FLATTENING THE CURVE

Depending on how quickly COVID-19 spreads, hospitals could manage a gradual surge or could be overwhelmed by steep increases in hospitalization.

It is estimated that  
**1 in 10 POSITIVE CASES**  
 results in hospitalization



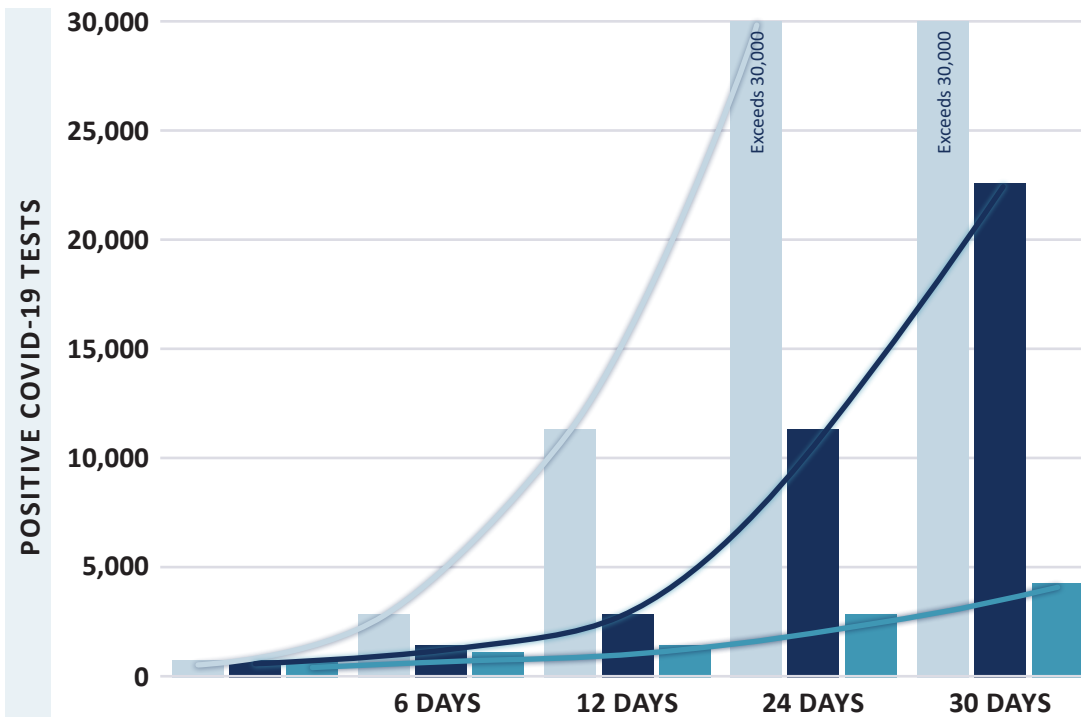
Based on the data we've seen so far, for every ten positive COVID-19 tests, roughly one case requires hospitalization.



Source: <https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/10/simple-math-alarming-answers-covid-19>

# WHY THE INFECTION RATE MATTERS

■ Doubling every 3 days 
 ■ Doubling every 6 days 
 ■ Doubling every 12 days



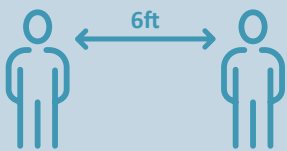
**If COVID-19 infection doubles every three days in Wisconsin, elements of the health care system could be overwhelmed.**

- Because testing capacity is still limited in Wisconsin, the number of people testing positive understates the number of people who are actually infected and contagious.
- COVID-19 is a serious situation, and no one can predict with certainty the extent of its impact or when it will peak in Wisconsin – *key variables and data change and are influenced by our actions.*
- We do know slowing the rate of infection is key to “flattening the curve” and pacing the impact on our health care system.

**By PREVENTING and PREPARING now, we can slow down COVID-19 and better manage the impact on the health care system.**

## To PREVENT we need

**Strict Adherence to Social Distancing**



Prevent community spread of COVID-19.

**Increased Testing Capacity**



More accurately identify infection rates, hot spots, and protect health care workers and patients.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health care workers**



Protect our doctors, nurses, support staff and patients from infection.

## To PREPARE we need

**Data**



Monitor the rate of infection and impact on the health care system, identify hot spots, improve projections and gauge the effectiveness and duration of prevention efforts.

**Temporary Regulatory Flexibility**



Short-term waivers of state and federal rules that will allow hospitals, health systems and others to meet demands as needed.