



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Winona County

COVID-19 DATA & UPDATES FAQ

Where can we find updates?

[Winona County Health and Human Services Facebook](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Minnesota Dept. of Health](#)

[Johns Hopkins University Dashboard](#)

[Winona County COVID-19 Status Report via Johns Hopkins University](#)

Where can I get information about the cases in nursing homes or congregate care facilities?

Locations of individual cases is protected information and can not be released. Information on cases in congregate care facilities can be found [here](#).

Why aren't you reporting the number of active cases?

Due to the uncertainty of when exactly individuals contract the virus, we are unable to establish a number of "active" cases with 100% certainty. In addition, if we can't determine exactly when the positive individual contracts the disease, we can't determine when the person is "virus free". What we do know is that there are active cases in the community, likely untested and asymptomatic, and the possibility of spread is very real.

Why is Winona County not identifying businesses that have an employee test positive?

We currently don't list all businesses with cases publicly because there's not a public health reason to do that. When we identify a cluster, we reach out to the businesses to see what can be done to limit spread, etc. We make recommendations on any interventions if needed.

But every business, every situation is different, depending on the layout of the business, the type of activities and the amount of interaction between the business and the public. Some businesses may have three cases but doing everything right and no action is needed.

If there is a public health need we will work with the business and release the information. Many businesses have voluntarily released when a case has been identified.

What is the procedure for Winona County residents who are tested outside of the county?

The procedure is those positive tests get reported to the Minnesota Department of Health and then to the County of residence, even with out-of-state tests.

Where things get confusing and sometimes numbers change is when people do not report their current address to the health care provider who did the test. This gets straightened out during contact tracing but sometimes this causes numbers to go up and down.