March 24, 2020

Flattening the COVID-19 Curve

Flattening the Curve: Slowing transmission of COVID-19 using social distancing measures will reduce the number of people who are infected with the virus.

Cases in our state are increasing **30% daily**

Growth rate is exponential, NOT linear

The doubling rate in Wisconsin is every **3 days** (this is consistent with the rate seen in other countries)

Individuals who are infected may be asymptomatic for **5-7 days** and can infect others without knowing it.

- This means any policy intervention will take at least 5-7 days to see an impact.
- 14-20% require hospitalization with at least oxygen support.
- COVID-19 no longer only infects the elderly and chronically ill; it infects children and healthy adults.

We are not flattening the curve quickly enough.

We need to focus on maintaining the new hospitalization case burden at less or at least equal to the rate of recoveries.

NY, Seattle, Italy, Spain – health care system capacity has been overwhelmed.

Within **3-5 weeks** the number of individuals needing hospitalization will exceed the capacity of our hospital systems (Wisconsin Hospital Association Model).

Sources: CDC, WHO, WI DHS

Download here: m cw.edu/covid-19