

Guidance Related to Mass Gatherings

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), WI Department of Health Services (DHS), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), have provided guidance to communities and businesses related to mass gatherings and events. See excerpts below.

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)

WEDC Outdoor Gatherings: https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-Outdoor-Gatherings-Guidelines_cl.pdf

- Consider suspending the use of hand stamps or wrist bands.
- If attendees will not be able to stay six feet away from others, recommend that they bring their own face mask or covering. Provide face masks at the event for any attendees who do not bring their own. Provide adequate no-touch trash receptacles for used masks. Considerations should be made for individuals who are unable or unwilling to wear a mask or cloth face cover.
- For employees, face masks or cloth face coverings may be required based on the level of interaction with attendees (e.g., point-of-sale interactions).
- High customer contact areas such as doorknobs, buttons, touchscreens, tables and stair rails should be cleaned every two hours, or after each user if feasible. Bathrooms should be sanitized frequently.
- Programmed events should be limited to 50 people in Phase 2 of the Onward Oneida County Plan.
- Where possible, event attendance should be staggered to minimize overlap and reduce density of participants.
- For any gatherings that do occur, spacing between stations/ booths should be at least 15 feet.
- Eliminate unnecessary physical contact between individuals, and maintain social distancing with a six-foot distance between individuals whenever possible.
- Follow additional General Guidance for All Businesses (<https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-GENERAL-Guidelines-ENGLISH-1.pdf>)

WEDC Entertainment and Amusement: https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-Entertainment-and-Amusement-Service-Guidelines_cl-1.pdf

- Bathrooms, locker rooms and shower rooms should be cleaned and sanitized frequently.
- Customer capacity should be reduced to ensure adequate social distancing if at all possible.
- Amusements with seating should maintain a minimum of six feet between household groups.
- Programmed events should be limited to 50 people in Phase 2 of the Onward Oneida County Plan.
- Gatherings should be invitation-only or include a process to collect participant lists, in case contact tracing becomes necessary.
- Follow additional General Guidance for All Businesses (<https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-GENERAL-Guidelines-ENGLISH-1.pdf>)

Wisconsin DHS Interim Guidance on Large Gatherings: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/protect.htm>

- At this time, DHS does not advise large gatherings, and there is no projected timeframe available as to when this advisory would change. Event planners should work closely with local/tribal health departments and local/tribal law enforcement on any future plans and decisions.
- Public health experts agree that large gatherings of people in sustained, close contact greatly increases the risk for spread of the virus among those who attend the events and to the communities these individuals return to after the event. The communal nature of such events makes it especially challenging to accommodate the physical distancing and sanitation recommendations required to slow the spread of disease. This includes but is not limited to fairs, festivals, parades, and conferences.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

CDC Interim Mass Gathering Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/deciding-to-go-out.html>

Guiding Principles

- A gathering refers to a planned or spontaneous event, indoors or outdoors, with a small number of people participating or a large number of people in attendance such as a community event or gathering, concert, festival, conference, parade, wedding, or sporting event.
- The *more people* an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading.
- The *higher the level of community transmission* in the area that the gathering is being held, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spreading during a gathering.
- The size of an event or gathering should be determined based on state, local, territorial or tribal safety laws and regulations.

The risk of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings increases as follows:

- **Lowest risk:** Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.
- **More risk:** Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear cloth face coverings, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).
- **Higher risk:** Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.
- **Highest risk:** Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.

Neighboring State COVID-19 Data

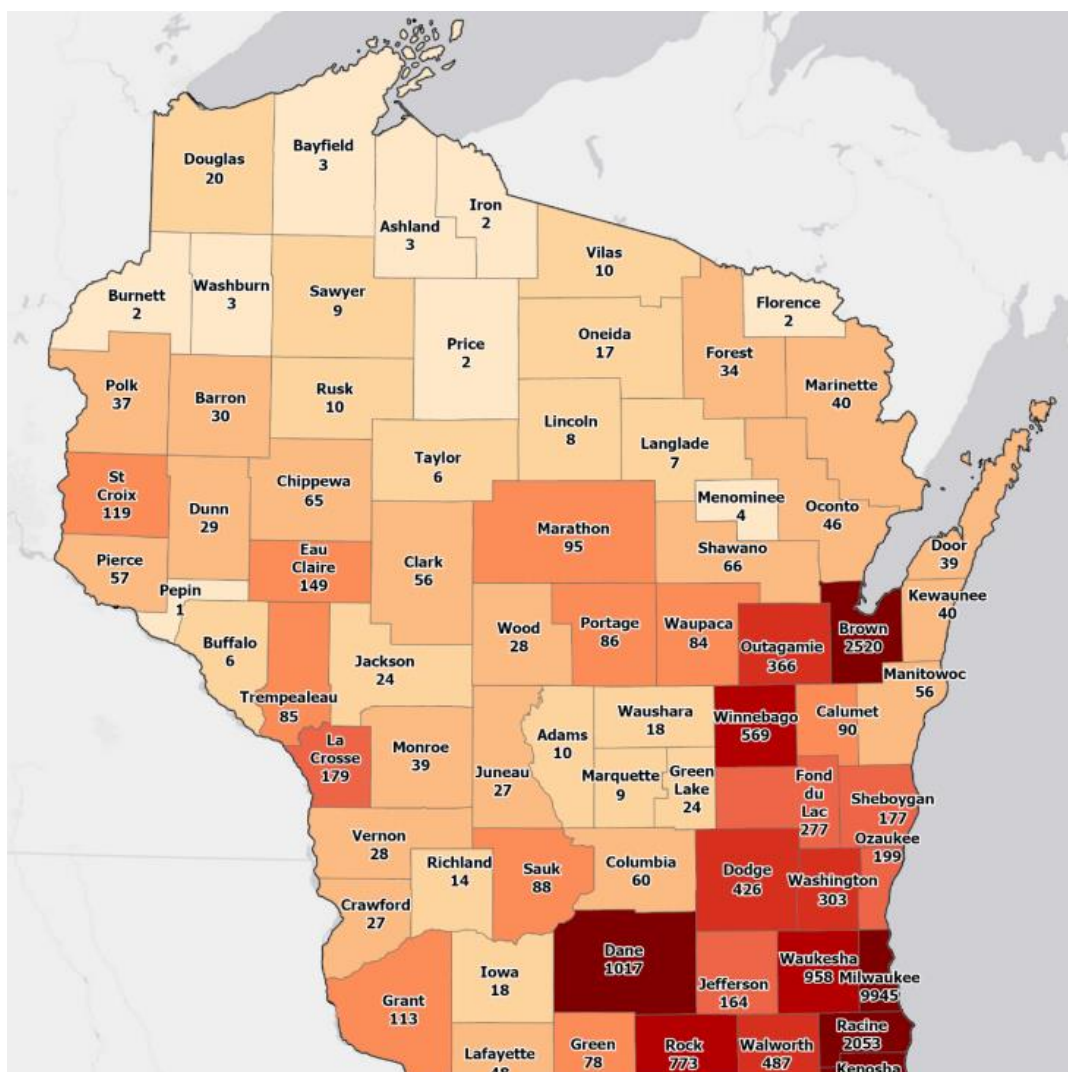
At-A-Glance

	CONFIRMED (+) RESULTS	NEGATIVE TEST RESULTS	DEATHS	% POSITIVE TESTS
WISCONSIN	24,154	444,751	730	2.4% (6/16)
ILLINOIS	135,470	1,175,533	6,580	3.3% (6/16)
MINNESOTA	32,031	443,121	1,361	1.55% (6/16)
MICHIGAN	60,829	896,382	5,823	.7% (6/16)

Due lags in data, percent positive tests values were pulled from 6/16 for completeness. Data accessed 6/19/20.

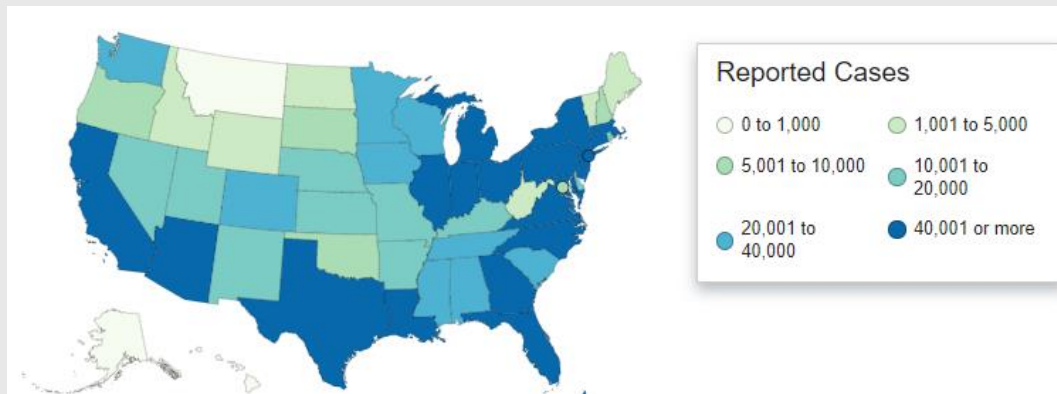
Wisconsin Data: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/data.htm>

County Specific Details



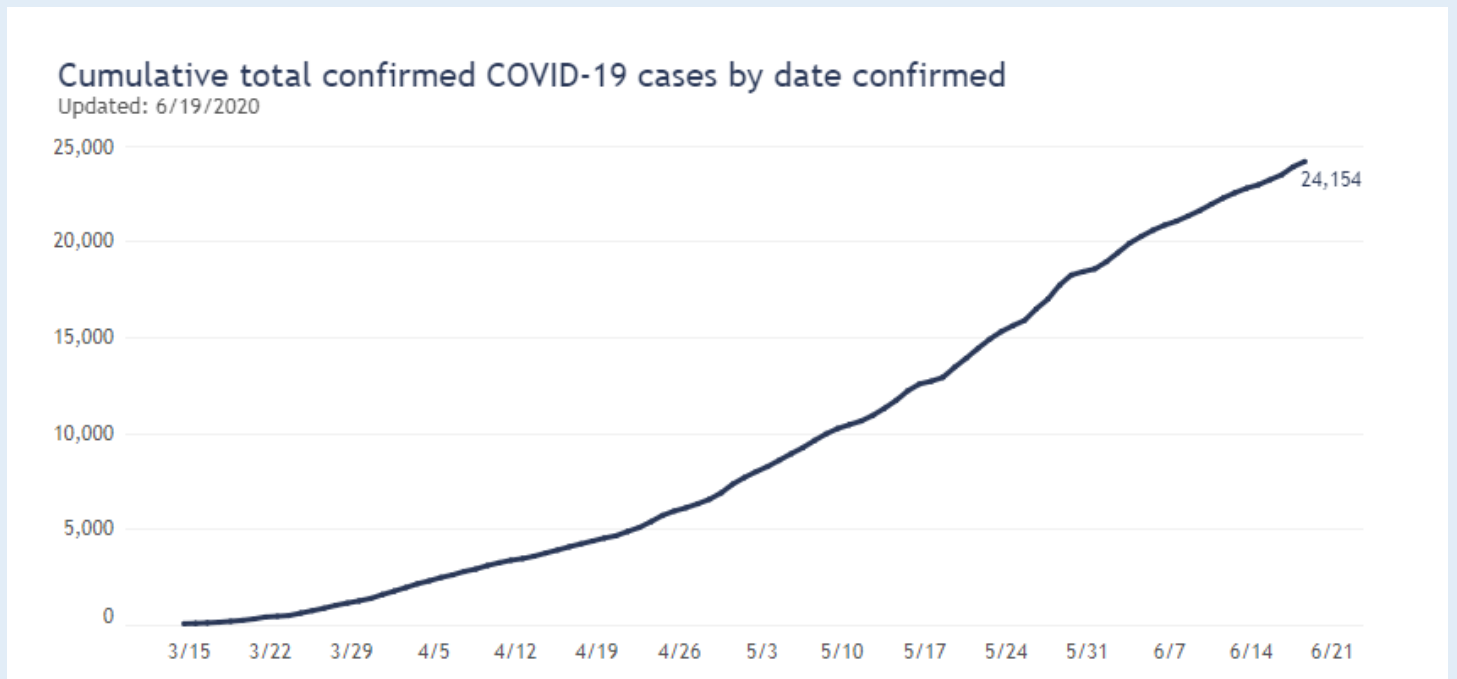
From a 6/18/20 report.

US At-A-Glance



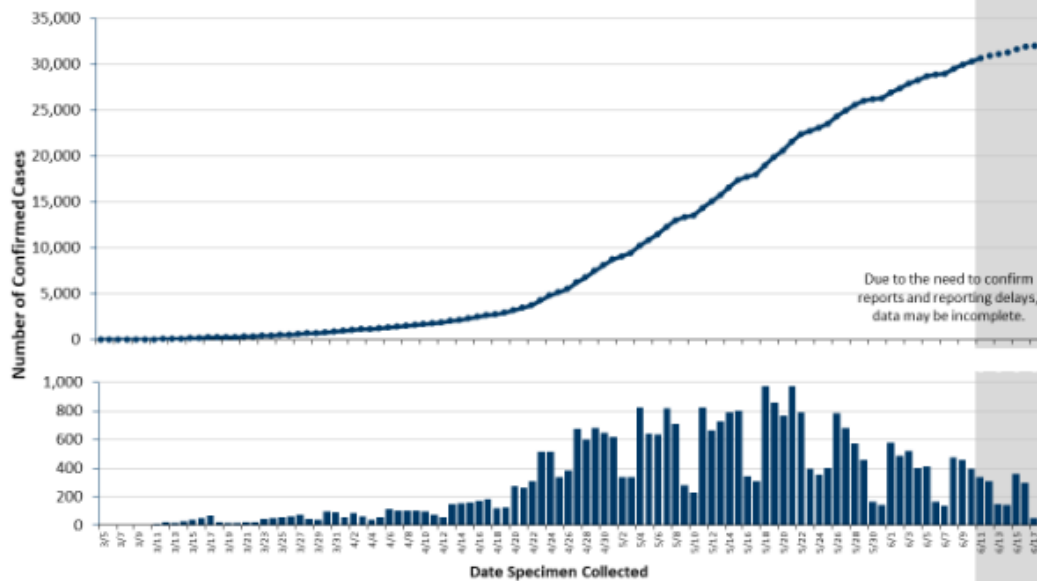
State Specific Details

Wisconsin: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases.htm>



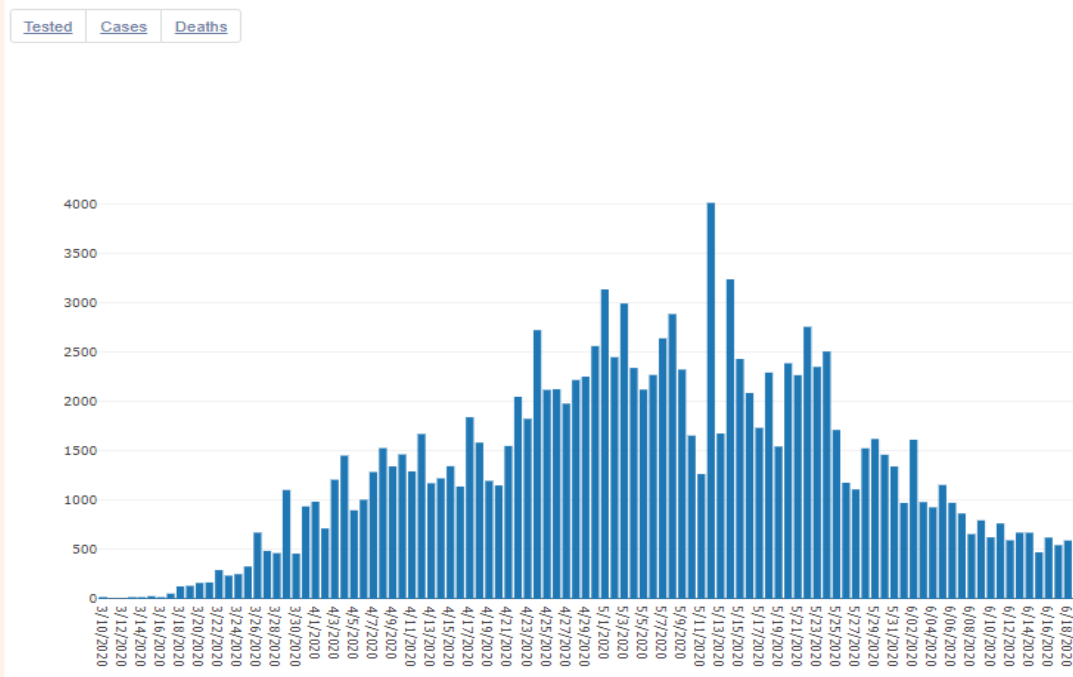
Minnesota Case Overview

- **Total positive cases: 32,031**
 - Number of health care workers: 3,327



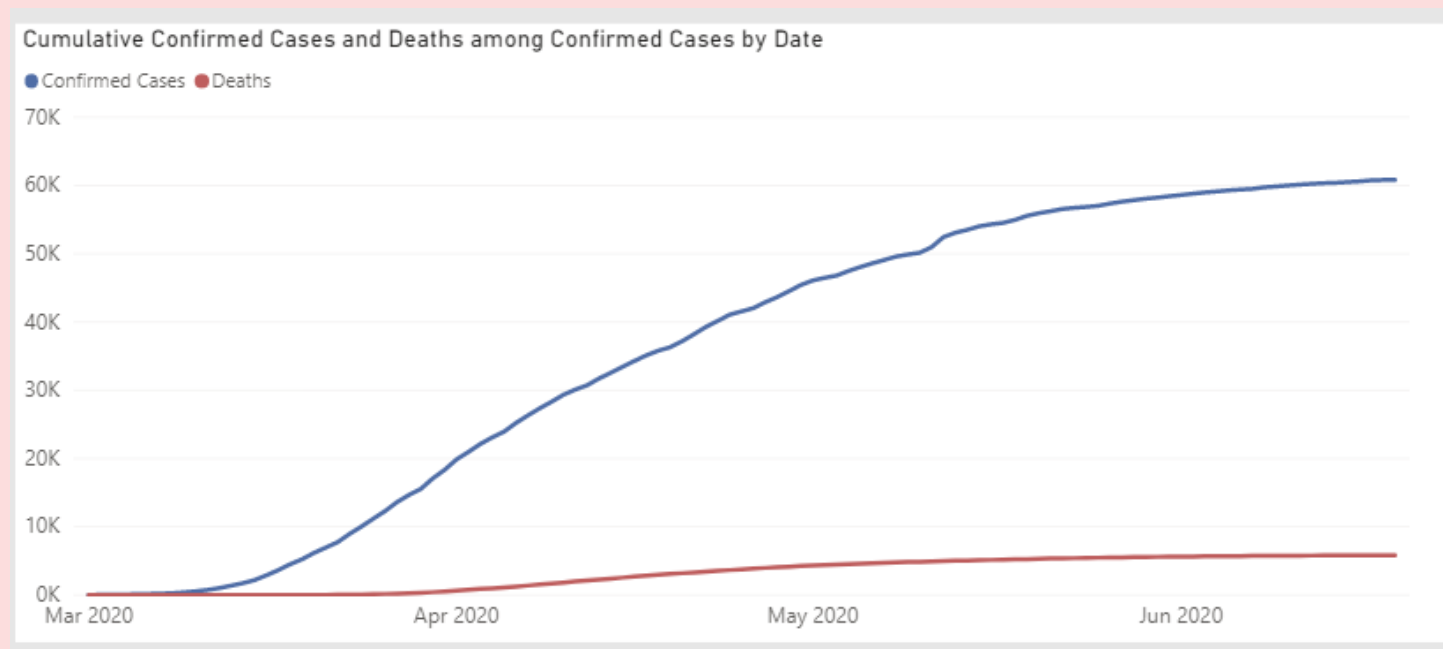
Data accessed 6/19/20.

Confirmed Cases Change All Time



Data accessed 6/19/20.

Michigan: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173---,00.html



Data accessed 6/19/20.

Findings Related to Mass Gatherings

Local News:

- **Portage County health officials discuss recent COVID-19 outbreak**
<https://waow.com/2020/06/09/portage-county-health-officials-discuss-recent-covid-19-outbreak/>, June 9, 2020
 - During a press briefing with Portage County health officials, there was a lot of talk about the recent outbreak associated with a Steven's Point graduation party.
- **Nearly 2 dozen COVID-19 cases tied to Sheboygan Falls church**
<https://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/nearly-2-dozen-covid-19-cases-tied-to-sheboygan-falls-church>, June 16, 2020
 - Sheboygan County Health Department officials are investigating a cluster of COVID-19 cases tied to a Sheboygan Falls church. Health Officer Starrlene Grossman says that so far, 23 people have been connected to the outbreak.

Chicago Funeral and Birthday Party: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e1.htm>

- An investigation of COVID-19 cases in Chicago in February/March 2020 identified a cluster of 16 confirmed or probable cases, including three deaths, likely resulting from one introduction. Extended family gatherings including a funeral and a birthday party likely facilitated transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in this cluster. The single individual likely responsible for the transmission had traveled out of state and was experiencing mild respiratory symptoms.

Arkansas Church:

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6920e2.htm?s_cid=mm6920e2_e&deliveryName=DM28707

Thirty-eight percent of congregants who attended events at a church in a rural Arkansas county during a six-day period in March later tested positive for Covid-19, according to a report published Tuesday by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to the report, 35 of 92 people who attended events at the church from March 6 to 11 had lab-confirmed cases of Covid-19. The outbreak resulted in three deaths among church attendees, all people over 65. Six of the seven patients that were hospitalized were also in this same age range.

High SARS-CoV-2 Attack Rate Following Exposure at a Choir Practice — Skagit County, Washington, March 2020:

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6919e6.htm?s_cid=mm6919e6_w

- Following a 2.5-hour choir practice attended by 61 persons, including a symptomatic index patient, 32 confirmed and 20 probable secondary COVID-19 cases occurred (attack rate = 53.3% to 86.7%); three patients were hospitalized, and two died. Transmission was likely facilitated by close proximity (within 6 feet) during practice and augmented by the act of singing.

Mardi Gras and COVID-19 Spread: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e4.htm?s_cid=mm6915e4_w

- An April 11, 2020 article discusses the acceleration of COVID-19 spread likely due to Mardi Gras. At the time of the article, Louisiana was a hot spot with more than 20,000 cases and 806 deaths. The article highlights that the Mardi Gras celebration came at a point in time when cancelling or postponing mass gatherings was not yet common.

Public Health Response to the Initiation and Spread of Pandemic COVID-19 in the United States, February 24–April 21, 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6918e2.htm>

- Various factors contributed to accelerated spread during February–March 2020, including continued travel-associated importations, large gatherings, introductions into high-risk workplaces and densely populated areas, and cryptic transmission resulting from limited testing and asymptomatic and presymptomatic spread.
- During February 2020, the number of confirmed cases originating in the United States was low and appeared contained; thus, federal and local jurisdictions did not recommend restrictions on gatherings. However, during the last week of February, several large events led to further spread of the disease. These included Mardi Gras celebrations in Louisiana with more than 1 million attendees, an international professional conference held in Boston, Massachusetts, with approximately 175 attendees, and a funeral in Albany, Georgia, with more than 100 attendees

Large Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease among Wedding Attendees, Jordan:

https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/9/20-1469_article

- In March 2020, a wedding in Jordan led to a large outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). We collected data on 350 wedding attendees, 76 of whom developed COVID-19. Our study shows high communicability of COVID-19 and the enormous risk for severe acute respiratory syndrome 2 virus transmission during mass gatherings.

Coronavirus Disease Outbreak in Call Center, South Korea: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/8/20-1274_article

- We describe the epidemiology of a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in a call center in South Korea. We obtained information on demographic characteristics by using standardized epidemiologic investigation forms. We performed descriptive analyses and reported the results as frequencies and proportions for categorical variables. Of 1,143 persons who were tested for COVID-19, a total of 97 (8.5%, 95% CI 7.0%–10.3%) had confirmed cases. Of these, 94 were working in an 11th-floor call center with 216 employees, translating to an attack rate of 43.5% (95% CI 36.9%–50.4%). The household secondary attack rate among symptomatic case-patients was 16.2% (95% CI 11.6%–22.0%).