



WAUKESHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

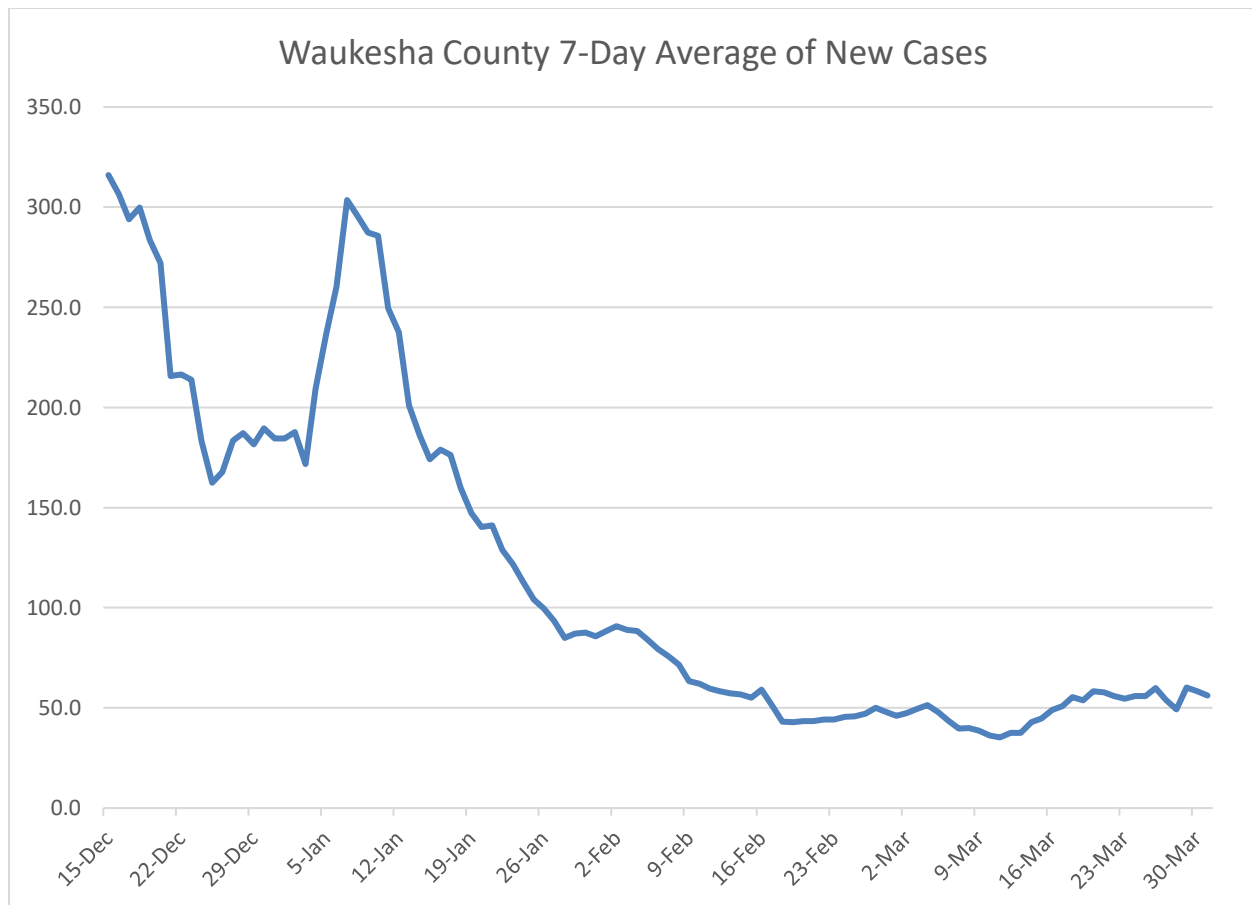
321 WISCONSIN AVENUE
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN 53186-4713
TELEPHONE 262/524-3680 FAX 262/524-3677

Bruce Gay, Library Director
bgay@waukesha-wi.gov

April 1, 2021

To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Bruce Gay, Library Director
Re: Pandemic Update for March, 2021

From February 11 through March 31 the average new daily cases in Waukesha stayed between 40 and 60, ending the decrease from January's surge but not, at this point, surging again. Evening hours on Mondays have been well received by the public along with additional computers with longer sessions.



The slight increase toward the end of the month, along with a one-day new case report of 124, made me decide to postpone adding back Tuesday through Thursday evening hours until, potentially, the week of April 12. At that point we will also add some chairs at tables for public



use and relax the instructions to limit visit time.

As with everyone, I am balancing the news about the new virus variants along with the increased numbers of people vaccinated to try to make best decisions for providing service. Anecdotally, we regularly have people coming into the building Tuesday through Thursday just before we close at 6 p.m., so this is a change that I think will be well received once in place.

The library continues to follow the City's mask mandate for City buildings. The end of the Governor's mask mandate meant we had to print new signs but otherwise has had little effect.

As long as case numbers hold steady or fall, I anticipate adding more seating in May to return to nearly normal. Community Engagement team members are planning in-person Summer programming but will hold these events outside in Cutler Park.

With the addition of Vaccine Group 1C for health conditions and April 5's change to allow all adults to be vaccinated, library staff is searching for places to get the vaccine. Staff can take work time to get their vaccines, by City policy. I believe about half the staff has had or has scheduled at least a first shot as of April 1. I regularly urge staff to get vaccinated. So far 35% of County residents have received at least one shot.

At this point it feels like the pandemic will linger at a reduced rate for several months. The more staff and customers are vaccinated will let us provide more services and be more open, but it doesn't seem as if it will entirely "go away" soon.

