



WAUKESHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

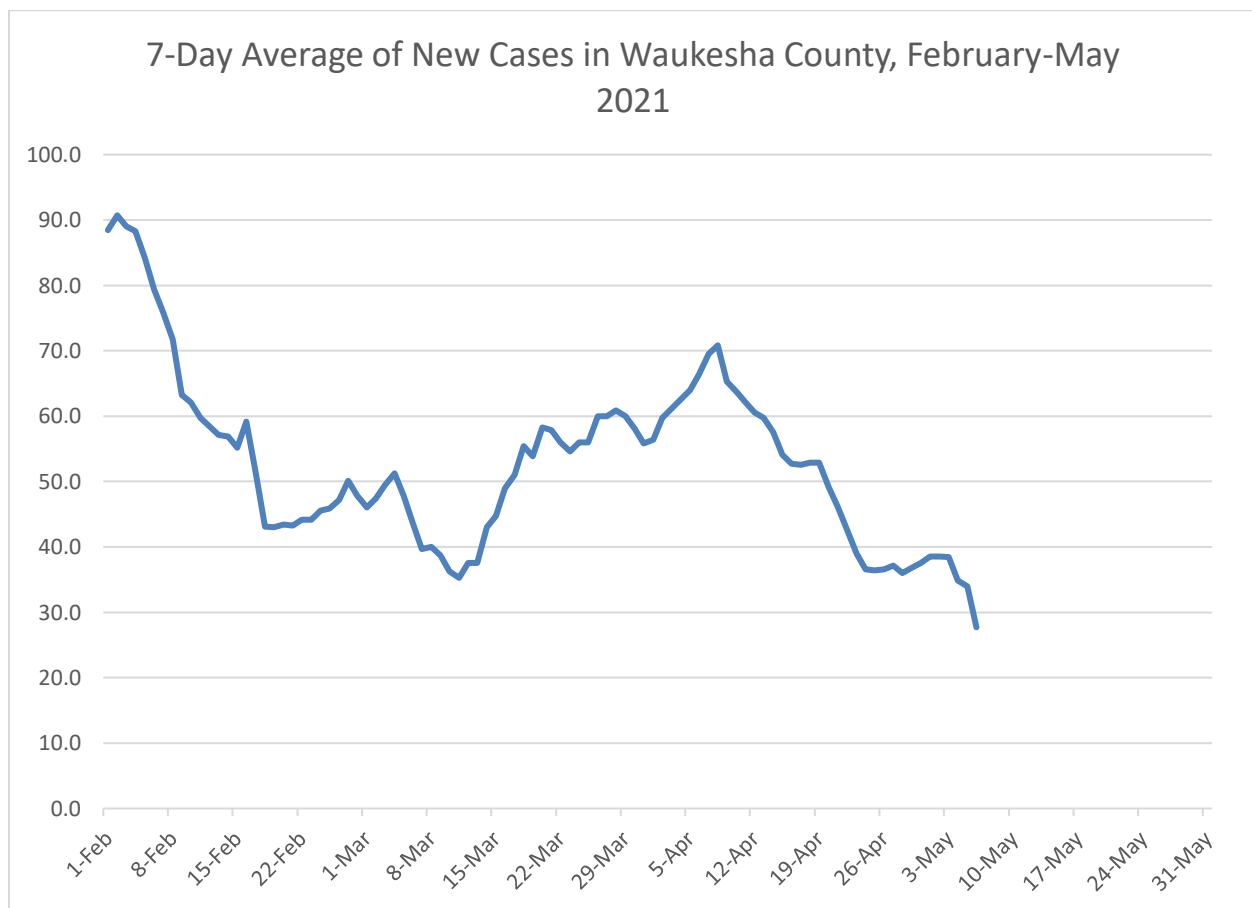
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Bruce Gay, Library Director
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May 6, 2021

To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Bruce Gay
Re: May Pandemic Response

The number of new cases in Waukesha County dropped over the last month, from a peak average of 70 on April 8 to just 27 on May 6. On May 6 almost half of Waukesha residents (48.8%) had received at least the first vaccine for the Coronavirus. Additionally, 10.8% of the population in Waukesha County has had the disease already.



In April, the City Common Council lifted the City's mask mandate, effective May 15. This act exempted the Library and a few other departments and affected only public areas of City buildings. Last week City of Waukesha administration decided to end the mask requirement for staff areas of City buildings on June 1.

My interpretation of the Council action's effect on the Library is to allow the Library Board full latitude (as appropriate under Chapter 43 of State law) to decide whether to require masks. Just over half (12 of 23) other Bridges System libraries report having a Board-approved mask policy, though not all these policies require masks.

Late in April I discussed options with Library Managers and received some staff feedback. As expected, viewpoints were varied: some staff would like the mandate to end while others would like it to continue.

