



DANE COUNTY

Joe Parisi
County Executive

November 10, 2020

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald
Senate Majority Leader Elect Devin LeMahieu
Assembly Speaker Robin Vos
Wisconsin State Capitol
2 E. Main St
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I write you today with urgency to implore you to come to the table with Governor Evers to develop and enact a statewide plan to address the COVID-19 crisis that has exploded across our state, inundated our hospitals, and resulted in immeasurable suffering in Wisconsin communities.

Here in Dane County, our ICU's are full, our hospital staff stretched beyond limit, the spread of the virus is at record highs, and there is no let-up in sight.

Dane County enacted Public Health orders this summer that helped slow the progression of Covid-19 in our community. These orders remain the strictest in the state and the data shows they work. Contact tracing shows 4% of our county's cases are emerging from bar and restaurant settings. If Wisconsin pursued similar guidance for a temporary, 30 day period and moved bars and eating establishments to carry out with limited indoor capacity the rate of spread in our state would slow. I believe this order is largely responsible for Dane County's significantly lower rate of infection per capita than the state. Wisconsin's rate of infection right now is approaching 100 out of every 100,000. Dane County's is just over 60.

The lack of a comprehensive statewide plan to mitigate the spread of the virus is contributing greatly to our challenge. This virus knows no boundaries; it is spreading at alarming rates. We're doing everything we can to slow this virus but we need *your* help, too.

Unfortunately, the past several months have been marred by legal action and apathy, creating public confusion. Action, or in this case inaction, has consequences and it's visibly on display in every hospital in this state right now. What we are seeing with hospitals re-directing patients or in the case of Madison hospitals, using up every available ICU bed before the coldest days of winter arrive, was entirely preventable.

The time for politics has long come and gone. The election is over. Now the people of this state need you, our state leaders, to act, to govern, to meet with one another, to come up with a plan, and to execute that plan. Telling us what you don't support won't stop the spread of Covid-19 or ease the overwhelming burden on our doctors, nurses, and hospitals. Neither will more lawsuits that only result in needless loss of life.

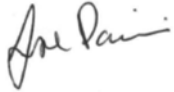
There are people lying unconscious in ICU's all across our state, and they need you to act. Their families and loved ones need you to act. We *all* need you to act. This current situation, in which daily caseloads are swelling, the rate of positive tests is hitting an all-time high and people are dying, all while state leaders are not even speaking to one another, is simply unacceptable.

There is nothing more important right now than implementing a statewide plan to slow the spread of this virus. Use the Dane County orders as a template and implement it statewide for the next 30 days. We've had successes in Dane County. And we stand ready to help and to work with you, our state officials, to move a statewide plan forward.

We need you to act: we need a plan, and we need it now.

Please don't tell us why you can't, or why you won't; show us how you can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Parisi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joe Parisi
Dane County Executive