

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE. COVID-19 mitigation efforts implemented by the City of Milwaukee to limit transmission associated with the April 7, 2020 election*

Mitigation category	Mitigation strategy	Description of implementation
Physical distancing	Physical distancing in line	Tape-marked increments every 6 feet in areas where voters queued as they waited to vote.
	Voting booth spacing	Poll booths and voting machines placed at least 6 feet apart to maintain physical distancing.
	Metering of voters into polling stations	The number of persons (including poll workers, voters, custodians, and observers) in the polling station monitored and limited at each voting location.
	Separate entrances and exits	Flow reviewed to ensure each polling site had separate entrances and exits.
	Clear signage with physical distancing rules	Clear signage throughout polling sites informed voters of measures being taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and the importance of complying with physical distancing requirements.
Personal mitigation	Encouragement of personal protective measures	Personal protective measures (e.g., handwashing and cough etiquette) were encouraged in media interview and social media in advance of election day and in signage posted at each polling site. Use of cloth masks was encouraged on election day; however, recommendations for use of cloth face masks were first released by CDC on April 3, after the start of early voting.
Cleaning and disinfecting	Cleaning surfaces between voters	High-touch surfaces (registration tables and polling booths) cleaned and disinfected between each use using EPA-approved disinfectants. [†]
	Doors at polling sites left open	Doors propped open at each voting site to reduce the number of surfaces that needed to be touched by voters and to promote ventilation.
	Hand sanitizer	Alcohol-based hand sanitizer made available to voters as they entered and exited the voting facility.
Poll worker supplies, training and support	Personal protective equipment (PPE) for poll workers	Poll workers provided with and wore PPE, including surgical masks, gloves, gowns, and goggles or face shields. [§] Poll workers were advised to change their PPE every 4 hours, or if it became soiled, and to bring a clean set of clothes to change into before returning home.
	Training	Poll workers provided training on proper donning and doffing of PPE to minimize potential exposures, as well as key messages related to 1) not sharing equipment or work stations with other workers, 2) frequent hand washing, 3) limiting personal cell phone use, 4) respiratory etiquette, and 5) limiting consumption of food and water to break areas monitored by public health staff and use of low touch (sports style) bottles for water.
	Temperature monitoring	Poll workers encouraged to monitor their temperature before their shift and call in sick if they were having signs or symptoms of COVID-19. All volunteers' temperature checked at check-in for each shift.
Curbside and absentee voting	Encouragement of absentee voting	Public messaging campaigns encouraged the general public to register for absentee voting.
	Scale-up of curbside voting	Nurses on hand at each site to identify and support special accommodations for persons who were not feeling well or were experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19. Curbside voting, whereby voters were able to vote while remaining in their vehicle or at the voting place entrance, was expanded to accommodate these persons.

Abbreviation: COVID-19 = coronavirus disease 2019; EPA = Environmental Protection Agency.

* Public health measures implemented by the City of Milwaukee Health Department described here were informed by CDC interim guidance on election polling locations issued on March 3, but included additional measures determined relevant and feasible by the local jurisdiction.

[†] Milwaukee uses a paper ballot system.

[§] Revised CDC guidance "Considerations for Election Polling Locations and Voters: Interim guidance to prevent spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)" released June 22, 2020, recommends personal protective equipment (PPE) only for poll workers assisting voters with symptoms; earlier guidance did not include recommendations regarding poll worker PPE. Mitigation measures, including use of cloth masks by the general public, are believed to limit poll workers exposure and need for PPE; use of cloth masks were recommended just before and not yet widely adopted in Milwaukee by April 7.