

Healthy Workers, Thriving Wisconsin

Many Wisconsin workers who become ill are caught between hazards:



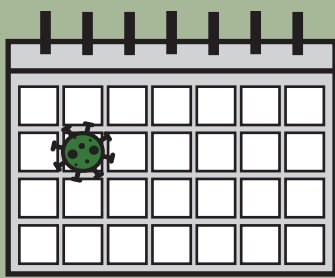
Go to work to earn the income they need to survive, but risk infecting others

or

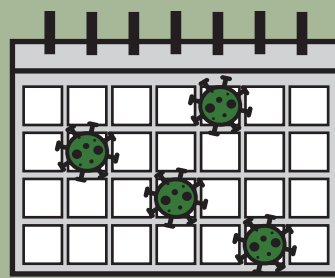


Stay home to isolate, but not be able to pay rent, buy medications, or put food on the table

Forcing Wisconsinites to make this impossible choice resulted in **over 2600 workplace COVID-19 outbreaks** in non-healthcare settings in 2020.



One in five U.S. workers are exposed to the virus at their workplace on a **monthly** basis



One in ten U.S. workers are exposed to the virus at their workplace on a **weekly** basis

Wisconsin must choose its path.

We can stay the current course while our economy stagnates and Wisconsinites struggle...



...or we can take a different road: enact protections for workers to control the spread of the virus, save lives, and bolster our economy.

1. Paid Sick Leave



The U.S. is the **only wealthy country in the world** that does not ensure its workers have access to paid sick leave.

Over **600,000 Wisconsin workers** do not have access to paid sick days. Due to a long history of discriminatory policies and practices, a majority of those workers are people of color and people living in poverty.



If paid sick leave became available to all Wisconsinites in early 2021, it could reduce the spread of COVID-19 by:



10,000 fewer cases and 75 lives saved each month



Based on what's happened other places, paid sick leave laws would **likely not lead to a loss of wages or employment**. In fact, paid sick day requirements could allow businesses to **return to normal operations more quickly**.

2. Workers' Compensation

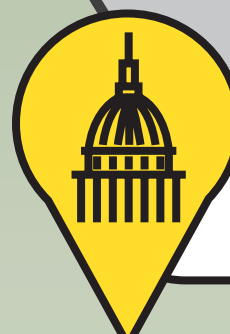


Many Wisconsin workers who become ill after workplace exposure to COVID-19 **are not receiving workers' compensation**.

Many states, including **Minnesota, Illinois, and Michigan**, have made changes so that employees who become ill after workplace exposure can **readily receive workers' comp**.



In April 2020, the **Wisconsin Legislature passed a bill** making it easier for pandemic first responders to receive workers' comp, but the provision did not cover other essential workers and **expired in June 2020**.



3. Direct Payments

Most gig and undocumented workers **do not have access to paid sick leave or workers' compensation**.



Providing financial support to stay home when sick protects Wisconsin businesses and families by **slowing the spread of COVID-19**.

The survival of many Wisconsin workers is at stake, and protecting them impacts the health of all Wisconsin families and our economy.

What path will we choose?

For more information, see the Healthy Workers, Thriving Wisconsin [full report](#) or [executive summary](#).

Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, United States, and Wisconsin icons by Ted Grajeda from the Noun Project; Workers icon by Melissa Schmitt from the Noun Project.