



WPR

» CORONAVIRUS IN WISCONSIN



Ashley Stangel and her 5-year-old son, Sullivan, look at art Friday, March 5, 2021, at the Milwaukee Art Museum. *Angela Major/WPR*

COVID-19 Vaccinations Are Rising, Cases Are Falling, And Milwaukee Is Reopening

Almost 1 Year After Closing, Wisconsin's Economic Engine Starts Again

By Corrinne Hess

Published: Thursday, March 11, 2021, 5:20am

SHARE:



 Listen
  Download

For the last year, Ashley Stangel has been fighting two wars: one to get people healthy; and another to make people believe the pandemic is real.

But Stangel, a COVID-19 intensive care unit nurse who lives in Pewaukee, is beginning to feel hopeful.

She's vaccinated against the coronavirus. And on Friday, she and her children, 5-year-old Sullivan and 18-month-old Violet, got gussied up and went to the Milwaukee Art Museum. It was the first day the museum was open to the public in months after closing in November due to a surge in COVID-19 cases.

It was a day Stangel felt a tinge of normalcy.

Cornavirus cases across the state are declining, and Stangle says she sees a light at the end of the year-long tunnel.

"We've been very, very cautious and the kids haven't been able to do many things," she said. "But now, one of our favorite places has reopened, so we decided put our fancy clothes on and celebrate."



Sullivan, 5, and Violet, 1, look through the glass at the Milwaukee Art Museum to see pedestrians and Lake Michigan on Friday, March 5, 2021, while visiting the museum with their mother, Ashley Stangel of Pewaukee, Wis. *Angela Major/WPR*

Milwaukee's museums [reopened the first week in March](#). The Milwaukee Bucks [are allowing a limited number of fans](#) to attend games, and [people will be in the stands](#) for the Brewers' Opening Day on April 1.

The [Milwaukee Ballet](#) and [Milwaukee Repertory Theater](#) will also have live shows in front of smaller crowds.

Like Milwaukee's restaurants and bars, entertainment venues have to comply with [the city's coronavirus safety order](#). Venue capacity can't be more than 25 percent, although most groups have said they'll keep attendance to less than that.



Basketball fans walk into the Fiserv Forum to watch the Milwaukee Bucks play the Denver Nuggets on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, in Milwaukee, Wis. *Angela Major/WPR*

On March 4, the first day the Milwaukee Public Museum was open, Ty and Jenni Tretsven were there with their four children, ages 6, 8, 10 and 12.

While they were checking out the dinosaur exhibits, Jenni said the family needed to get out of their house in northwestern Wisconsin, where the children were being homeschooled because of the pandemic.

"When we made the plans the numbers were going down, and we just thought it would be something to do," Jenni said. "I guess like a spring break."

Sign up for daily news!

Stay informed with WPR's email newsletter.

Enter email address

Subscribe

WHYsconsin

What questions or concerns do you have about COVID-19 — either about the virus, prevention or preparation, or a vaccine? If you think you have symptoms, call your health care provider.

Your contact info

We'll be in touch if we look into your question.

Name	Email address	Zip Code
------	---------------	----------

Subject of your question - choose one ▼

- Please don't publish my name
- I am over 16 years old
- I accept the [Terms of Service](#)

Submit

Please contact your health provider if you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 or are showing symptoms. For information on symptoms, visit [the CDC website](#).

Powered by Hearken | [Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Wisconsin Public Radio, © Copyright 2021, Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System and Wisconsin Educational Communications Board.

Commenting Policy

Wisconsin Public Radio and WPR.org welcome civil, on-topic comments and opinions that advance the discussion from all perspectives of an issue. Comments containing outside links (URLs) will only be posted after they've been approved by a moderator. WPR.org will delete comments that violate our guidelines. Visit our social media [guidelines](#) for more information about these policies.