

# TELE- NEUROPSYCHOLOGY IN THE AGE OF PANDEMIC

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## Disclosure Statement

I have no relevant financial relationships to disclose that exist now or in the past 12 months.

## Percent of confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group

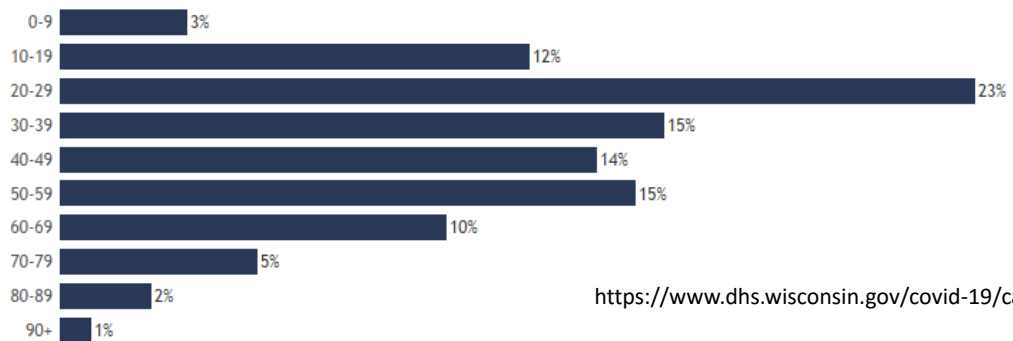
Updated: 10/16/2020 (Total: 166,186)

View cases by:

- Age group (years)
- Gender
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Region

Select case confirmation status:

- Confirmed
- Probable
- Confirmed and probable



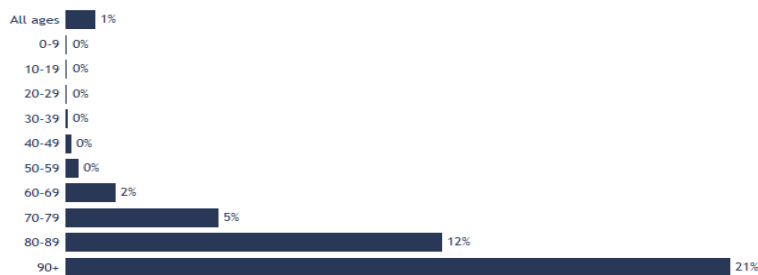
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases>.

## Percent of COVID-19 cases resulting in death within age group

Updated: 10/16/2020 (Total: 1,574)

View cases by:

- Ever hospitalized
- Any intensive care
- Death



Viewing cases by: Death

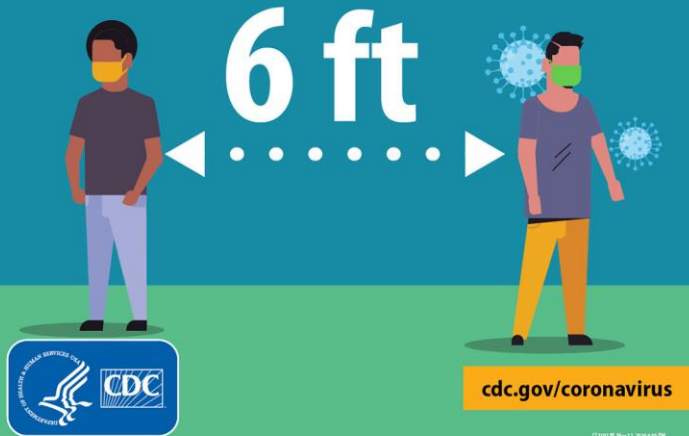
Age range (years)	Total Cases	Cases	Percent of total cases
0-9	5,378	0	0%
10-19	19,809	0	0%
20-29	38,621	10	0%
30-39	25,524	17	0%
40-49	22,676	45	0%
50-59	24,283	104	0%
60-69	16,331	257	2%
70-79	8,343	402	5%
80-89	3,898	462	12%
90+	1,323	277	21%
Total	166,186	1,574	1%

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases.htm#hospitalization>

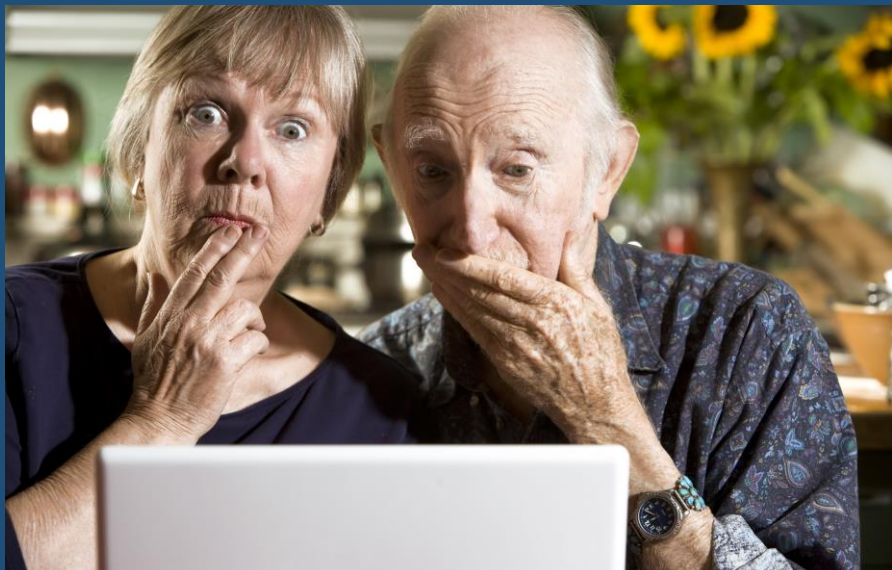
## STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length)  
from other people.



Where does that leave assessment?



# Practice Guidelines

American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology/American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology

National Academy of Neuropsychology

Division 40 of the American Psychological Association

American Board of Professional Neuropsychology

American Psychological Association Services, Inc.

# CHALLENGES

- Licensure issues- practicing across state lines
- Reimbursement
- Establishing telehealth platforms
- Regulatory issues such as HIPAA compliance
- Ethical issues e.g. basic informed consent, safety procedures for vulnerable patients
- Technical issues with patients, information, equipment
- Social pragmatics strategies to communicate empathy over telephone or video screen
- Standardization of procedures
- Available norms
- Validity

## Telephone or video without assessment

- Clinical interview and chart review resulting in actionable treatment plans as well as resources to support patients and families (Bilder et al., 2020)
- Consultations for individuals previously seen
- Provide support to patients and families struggling to cope with the current situation in context of cognitive, emotional or behavioral concerns.
- Assisting caregivers of patients with dementia and other memory disorders where social distancing instructions are quickly forgotten
- Traditional psychotherapy as training allows

## In-person with restrictions

- Masks/gloves
- Cleaning/disinfecting
- Possibly shorter batteries



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

## TELEPHONE ASSESSMENT

- Multiple Screening Measures: Two of most frequently used: Telephone MoCA or TICSm
- TICSm assesses orientation, attention, short-term memory, sentence repetition, immediate recall, naming to verbal description, word opposites, praxis, and delayed verbal recall.
- Comparable sensitivity and specificity for multi-domain MCI relative to diagnosis of MCI by in-person neuropsychological evaluation:
- TICSm validated among ethnically diverse populations (Hispanic and black)
- Pros: Requires little equipment or set up, easy accessibility
- Cons: Hearing can significantly affect performance. Family members/housemates may need to be coached to not provide hints or answers.

## VIDEO WITH ASSIST

- Administration of neuropsychological battery with trained technician to assist
- Evidence suggests this is generally comparable to in-person testing.
- Many neuropsychological tests are amenable to this format
  
- Pros: Data most valid.
- Cons: Need remote clinic, trained technician onsite.

## Tests studied in video w assist format

Boston Naming Test  
California Verbal Learning Test - Second Edition  
Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System (Proverbs Test)  
Independent Living Scales (Health and Safety Subtest)  
Mattis Dementia Rating Scale (Memory I subtest)  
Modified Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure Test  
Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status (Forms A and B)  
Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure Test (Copy, 3" Delay)  
Trail Making Test, parts A and B; Test of Practical Judgement  
Verbal Fluency (Semantic, Phonemic Fluency)  
Wechsler Memory Scale - Fourth Edition (Logical Memory I, II; Adult and Older Forms).

Brief Visual Memory Test- Revised  
Clock Drawing Test  
Digit Span  
Hopkins Verbal Learning Test-Revised  
Oral Trail Making Test, Parts A and B

## Video Evaluation without assist

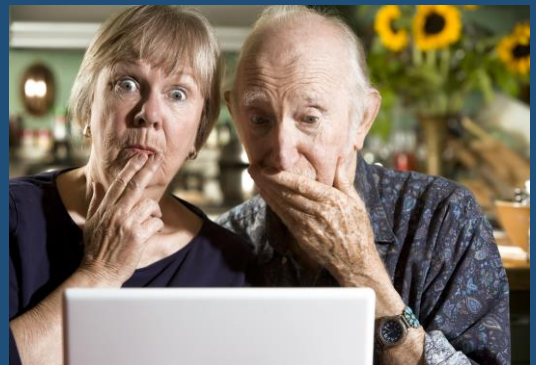
- Growth opportunity
- Many tests could potentially be administered
- May require set-up session before actual assessment  
(materials, environment, family members, means of transmitting written data)
- At present, least reliable and valid

## Report Disclaimer

“Due to circumstances that prevent in-person clinical visits, this assessment was conducted using telehealth methods (including remote audiovisual presentation of test instructions and test stimuli, and remote observation of performance via audiovisual technologies). The standard administration of these procedures involves in-person, face-to-face methods. The impact of applying non-standard administration methods has been evaluated only in part by scientific research. While every effort was made to simulate standard assessment practices, the diagnostic conclusions and recommendations for treatment provided in this report are being advanced with these reservations.”

## Summary

- Many options possible
- Stay attuned to patient needs
- Capabilities of your organization
- Training opportunities in development
- Flexibility is key





## References

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# Thank you!