



DAVID GREENE, HOST:

A COVID storm is on the rise. That grim new warning comes from the governor of Illinois. Texas is another place suffering with many new cases. Residents of El Paso have been asked to stay home for two weeks to prevent cases from overwhelming hospitals there. We are going to take a closer look this morning at Wisconsin. Rural parts of that state are being hit very hard. Teresa Weiler (ph) is a nurse. She supervises the COVID unit at Marshfield Medical Center in central Wisconsin.

TERESA WEILER: We're busy (laughter). It's almost a rotating door here. We either send somebody home or they leave, and then we get somebody else in a bed right away. It's truly day by day.

RACHEL MARTIN, HOST:

In the pandemic, providing patients with 24-hour care means serving their emotional needs, too, because their families can't be with them.

WEILER: The patients are scared. They are alone due to visitor restrictions. We try to be their family. We try to be their friend. We try to be their nurse.

MARTIN: The feeling of isolation is even worse for patients in rural Wisconsin.



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