

**EAU CLAIRE CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19
PREVENTION AND CONTROL ORDER**

WHEREAS, on December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus was detected, now named COVID-19, and it has spread throughout the world, including every state in the United States;

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President proclaimed a National Emergency in response to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, millions of people around the world have tested positive for COVID-19, including more than one million people in the United States, and more than 10,000 people in Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, as a novel disease with uncertain immunity and no vaccination currently available all of the population is at risk;

WHEREAS, physical contact and close proximity to other individuals may cause the spread of COVID-19, thereby endangering the public and placing undue strain on the healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, “physical distancing”, meaning a distance of six (6) feet is maintained between all individuals, is a public health tool that may be used to limit the spread of disease;

WHEREAS, it is essential to use all available tools as is reasonable and necessary to stop the transmission of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is present throughout Wisconsin, including in Eau Claire County with 65 people testing positive as of the date of this order;

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the Eau Claire County population has one or more of the risk-factors that increase the likelihood of hospitalization or death if infected including factors related to age and chronic health conditions;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Law provides broad authority and power for local health officials to prevent, control, and suppress COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 252.03(1) provides that every local health officer “*shall* promptly take *all* measures necessary to prevent, suppress and control communicable diseases”;

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 252.03(2) provides that local health officers “*may* do what is reasonable and necessary for prevention and suppression of disease”;

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 252.03(2) also provides that local health officers “may forbid public gatherings when deemed necessary to control outbreaks or epidemics”;

WHEREAS, a coordinated approach across political boundaries is needed to combat COVID-19, and people and businesses in Eau Claire County will benefit from a unified, consistent, evidence-based approach;

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin Orders were working to control the spread of disease across the state including in Eau Claire County;

WHEREAS, as required by Wis. Stat. § 252.03(1), the Eau Claire City-County Health Department investigated the circumstances of COVID-19 appearing locally and made a full report to the Eau Claire City-County Board of Health and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services;

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services provides communicable disease prevention and control and social distancing guidelines informed by Wisconsin public health experts and consistent with recommendations by the President and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control;

WHEREAS, based on the specific circumstances in Eau Claire County and my investigation of COVID-19 in Eau Claire County I have determined that this order is necessary to prevent, suppress, and control COVID-19 in Eau Claire County;

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County shall carefully review all public health recommendations from state and local organizations and consider all available state and local data in the consideration of relaxing restrictions.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Elizabeth Giese, director and health officer for Eau Claire County including the City of Eau Claire, by the authority vested in me by the Laws of the State, including but not limited to Section 252.03 of the Wisconsin Statutes, order the following:

1. **Stay at home or place of residence.** All individuals present within Eau Claire County are strongly encouraged to stay at home or at their place of residence, minimize travel out of this County, and keep the number of connections minimal to decrease the spread of disease. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces other than their home or residence, they must at all times as reasonably possible maintain physical distancing of at least six (6) feet from any other person except that they do not need to maintain social

distancing between individuals residing in a single living unit or household. If a resident travels outside their community and engages in activities that compromise physical distancing the resident should limit contact with non-household members for 14 days and monitor symptoms closely.

Individuals whose homes or residences are unsafe or become unsafe, such as victims of domestic violence, are urged to leave their home and stay at a safe alternative location.

For purposes of this Order, homes or residences include hotels, motels, shared rental units, dormitories, shelters, and similar facilities.

2. **Public spaces both indoors and outdoors and public buildings.** All public space and public buildings, which shall include those buildings open to the public, shall meet the following public health and safety practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- To the greatest extent feasible, use technology to avoid meeting in person, including virtual meetings, teleconference, and remote work
- Cease door-to-door solicitation.
- Review the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation guidelines on safe business practices, available here: <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>.
- Comply with Physical Distancing Requirements of 6 feet between all individuals on the premises including but not limited to employees, customers, and members of the public and limit the number on the premises, both indoors and outdoors to meet this physical distance requirement, except for those contacts that are incidental and brief in nature. This shall not be construed to require physical distancing between individuals from the same household.
- Allot 144 square feet of space per household unit in a business, both inside and outside and including decks and patios, which shall not in any event exceed an occupancy limit established by building code.
- Restrict the number of workers present on premises to no more than is strictly necessary to perform operations.
- Increase standards of facility cleaning and disinfection to limit worker and patron exposure to COVID-19, as well as adopting protocols to clean and disinfect in the event of a positive COVID-19 case in the workplace.
- Adopt policies to actively screen and prevent workers from entering the premises if they display COVID-19-like symptoms or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Adopt policies to actively screen and prevent customers, visitors, guests from entering the premises if they display respiratory symptoms or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

- Consider establishing curbside pick-up to reduce in- store traffic and mitigate outdoor lines.
- Cease any self-service operations of any type of food or beverage.
- Except for grocery stores, prohibit customers from self-dispensing all unpackaged food.
- Establish lines to regulate entry in with markings for patrons to enable them to stand at least six feet apart from one another while waiting. Stores should also use alternatives to lines, including allowing customers to wait in their cars for a text message or phone call and scheduling pick-ups or entries to the store.
- Cooperate with Public Health investigations related to COVID-19 confirmed or suspected cases related to the business operations, including excluding employees based on public health recommendations and assisting public health with identifying and contacting contacts of cases.

The above requirements shall not apply to those interactions that must occur for health and safety reasons.

3. **Mass Gatherings.** Mass gatherings are those planned or spontaneous events with a large number of people in attendance that could strain the planning and response resources of the community hosting the event, such as a concert, festival, conference, or sporting event. Mass gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Gatherings of any kind outside of a household unit shall exercise physical distancing.
4. **Follow DHS and CDC guidelines.** When taking any action permitted under this Order, all individuals, organizations, government bodies, and any other permitted group of individuals shall, to the extent possible, follow DHS guidelines located here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>.

All Essential Businesses and Operations and all businesses performing Minimum Basic Operations shall comply with DHS guidelines for businesses located here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/employers.htm>.

5. **Elderly people and those who are vulnerable as a result of underlying health conditions should take additional precautions.** People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their home or residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care. Nothing in this Order prevents DHS and local health officials from issuing and enforcing isolation and quarantine orders pursuant to Wis. Stat. ch. 252 and local ordinances.

6. **Prevention of Disease Recommendations.** For purposes of this Order, all residents are strongly encouraged to follow these guidelines including:
- a. Maintaining distancing of six (6) feet between people;
 - b. Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer;
 - c. Covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands);
 - d. Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces;
 - e. Not shaking hands; and
 - f. Following all other public health recommendations issued by DHS and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.
7. **Enforcement.** This Order is enforceable by any local law enforcement official. Violations may result in the issuance of citations.
8. **Severability.** If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.
9. **Duration.** This Order shall become effective immediately. This Order shall terminate on May 28, 2020. Any superseding or subsequent order shall be based upon public health best practices, review of all available data, and may include the following indicia: availability of personal protective equipment; intensive care unit bed capacity; downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period; treatment of all patients without crisis care; community testing of all symptomatic individuals, individuals involved in an outbreak, and individuals living and working in congregate settings.



05/14/2020

Elizabeth Giese
Health Officer/Health Director
Eau Claire City-County Health Department

Date