

**EAU CLAIRE CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTROL ORDER**  
**EFFECTIVE AUGUST 6, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, on December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus was detected, a virus that causes a disease 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 4.7 million people in the United States, and 56,940 people in Wisconsin;

**WHEREAS**, as a novel disease with no certain 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 531 people testing positive and four deaths 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 on April 22, 2020 and at all subsequent Board of Health meetings, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services via required electronic disease reporting;

**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 the spread of, suppress, and control COVID-19 in Eau Claire County;

**WHEREAS**, this order is intended to replace and update the **EAU CLAIRE CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTROL ORDER** effective July 23, 2020 in order to best address the local conditions of COVID-19 in Eau Claire County;

**WHEREAS**, the Responding Together Eau Claire COVID-19 Progress Plan outlines the mitigation strategies and progression of these strategies necessary for the control of rapid spread of disease.

**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 the 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 circle 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.**

Requirements.

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:

- 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 brief and incidental in nature. This shall not be construed to require physical distancing between individuals from the same household.
- 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 and consider policies that require face mask use by all workers.

- Adopt policies to actively screen and prevent customers, visitors, guests 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 and consider policies that require face mask use by all customers, visitors, and guests.
- Reduce occupancy to 50% of posted occupancy.
- Establish lines to regulate entry in and exit, as well as other congregating locations, with markings for individuals 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.

#### One-on-One Personal Services Additional Requirements.

The following requirements shall, in addition to those above, apply to those one-on-one personal services that by their very nature cannot maintain six (6) foot physical distancing. This shall not provide an exception to those activities which may be performed without violating six (6) feet of physical distancing:

- Limit the number of clients in a facility at one time such that every client or household unit is provided with six (6) feet of physical distancing. There must be a minimum of six (6) feet of physical distancing between each work station.
- Obtain full contact information for all clients (to include full name, address, e-mail address, and phone number) with which the provider has had close contact so as to assist in any necessary contact tracing.
- Sanitize all chairs, equipment and tools between each client.
- Clients must wear face coverings when feasible based on the service being performed.
- Providers must wear a cloth face covering at all times when in close contact and the wearing of a face shield is recommended.
- Review symptoms of COVID-19 verbally with staff each day. Any staff experiencing symptoms shall be sent home and is encouraged to contact their health care provider for testing for

COVID-19.

- Review symptoms of COVID-19 verbally with all clients prior to service. If a client is experiencing any symptoms, decline service and recommend the client contact their health care provider for testing for COVID-19.
- Maintain compliance with all relevant regulatory or licensing requirements in addition the additional requirements provided herein.
- Consider the following recommendations:
  - Limit the number of clients each provider is in close contact with (to be defined as within six (6) feet) to no more than twenty (20) people per day.
  - Appointments should be scheduled in advance with no walk-in service provided.
  - Waiting areas should be closed; clients should wait in vehicles or outdoors while maintaining six (6) feet of physical distancing for their appointment.

#### Busing Requirements.

Mass transportation, such as buses and commercial vans are, by their nature, locations where individuals are likely to and by necessity are within six (6) feet of each other. When, in these forms of transportation, physical distance of six (6) feet cannot be maintained between all individuals, a capacity of 50% shall be observed in addition to the following requirements:

- Cloth face coverings shall be worn, unless medically unsafe to do so.
- Buses with set riders, such as those on a school bus route, shall have assigned seats and daily attendance shall be taken.
- Operators of mass transportation shall actively communicate with or screen riders regarding COVID-19-like symptoms prior to boarding.

#### Recommendations.

All public space and public buildings, which shall include those buildings open to the public, shall review and apply, as much as possible, 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.
- Review the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation guidelines on safe business practices, available here: <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/> and other applicable State of

Wisconsin regulatory, industry-specific guidance.

- Consider establishing curbside pick-up to reduce in-store traffic and mitigate outdoor lines.
- Cease door-to-door solicitation.
- For any business without a posted occupancy, consider reducing occupancy by 50%.
- Restrict the number of workers present on premises to no more than is strictly necessary to perform operations and to ensure health and safety.
- Cease any self-service operations of any type of food or beverage.
- Except for raw agricultural commodities, prohibit customers from self-dispensing all unpackaged food.
- Review the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) guidelines for all sport activities, available here: <https://www.wiaawi.org/>.

The above requirements and recommendations of this paragraph 2 shall not apply to those interactions or spacing limitations that must occur for health and safety reasons.

3. **Public Gatherings.** Public gatherings are those planned events in a public space or public building, which shall include those buildings open to the public. Public gatherings are further defined as occurring with a number of people in attendance in a defined location for a prolonged period of time that could strain the planning and response resources, including public health and community health care resources, of the community hosting the event, such as a concert, festival, conference, or sporting event.

Any public gathering of more than 50 people is strongly discouraged. Public gatherings of more than 100 people in an indoor space and public gatherings of more than 250 people in an outdoor space are prohibited in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This prohibition shall not apply to political assemblies, religious gatherings, or other Constitutionally protected public gatherings.

All public gatherings permitted by this order, regardless of size, shall comply with all physical distancing and related requirements found in paragraph 2 above. Gatherings of any kind outside of a household unit shall exercise physical distancing and comply with all other requirements found in paragraph 2 above. Assigned or fixed seating is strongly encouraged.

Organizers of public gatherings permitted by this order shall document contact information of attendees for contact tracing purposes, to include each attendee's name, address, e-mail address, and phone number. Organizers shall actively screen and prevent attendance of individuals, including staff, volunteers, and attendees, who have symptoms of COVID-19.

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>; and

CDC guidelines located here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>.

All businesses 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.
6. **Prevention of Disease Recommendations.** For purposes of this Order, all residents are strongly encouraged to follow these guidelines including:
  - a. Staying home when sick with any symptoms of COVID-19;
  - b. Maintaining distancing of six (6) feet between people;
  - c. Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer;
  - d. Wearing a cloth face covering when physical distancing of six (6) feet cannot be maintained, including at entrances and exits to buildings, on public transit, and at store checkouts;
  - e. Covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands);
  - f. Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces;

- g. Not shaking hands; and
  - h. 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. 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.
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 on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 12:00am. This Order shall terminate on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. It is anticipated that this order will be extended, unless metrics indicate loosening or restricting is necessary. Local metrics can be found at <https://www.eauclairewi.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=32627>.

Any superseding or subsequent order shall be based upon public health best practices, review of all available data including the metrics at the link above, and may include the following indicia: 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.



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Elizabeth Giese, RN, MSPH  
Eau Claire City-County Health Department

08/05/2020  
Date