

**EAU CLAIRE CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS**  
**EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 13, 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; and 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 over 10.3 million people in the United States, and almost 300,000 people in Wisconsin;

**WHEREAS**, as a novel disease with no certain immunity and no vaccination currently available, all of the population is at risk of illness, hospitalization, long-term health issues, and death related to COVID-19 infection with some sub-populations being at higher risk;

**WHEREAS**, physical contact and close proximity to infected individuals, some of whom may be asymptomatic, causes the rapid spread of COVID-19, thereby endangering the public and placing undue strain on the healthcare system; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is present throughout Wisconsin, including in Eau Claire County with 5,475 people testing positive and 34 deaths as of November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the State and Eau Claire County are now listed as being at Critically High activity level with the number of cases and the trajectory of case counts being at an alarming level;

**WHEREAS**, among Eau Claire County residents, more than 55% of confirmed cases of COVID-19, 50% of COVID-19 hospitalizations, and 73% of confirmed COVID-19 deaths have occurred in the past 30 days;

**WHEREAS**, the death incidence rate for Eau Claire County has been more than 40% higher than the Wisconsin average in the past 30 days, while the case incidence rate has been 12% higher than the state average;

**WHEREAS**, all census tracts and age groups in the county have had a significant increase of cases of COVID -19;

**WHEREAS**, the average number of cases confirmed per day in Eau Claire County (rolling 7-day average) is almost three and half times higher than it was 30 days ago (131.3 vs. 38.6) and the per test positivity rate (rolling 14 days) is 113% higher than it was 30 days ago;

**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 provides that every local health officer “*shall* promptly take *all* measures necessary to prevent, suppress and control communicable diseases”; and “*may* do what is reasonable and necessary for prevention and suppression of disease”; and “may forbid public gatherings when deemed necessary to control outbreaks or epidemics”;

**WHEREAS**, as required by Wis. Stat. § 252.03, 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 State Epidemiologist and State Health Officer provide communicable disease prevention and control and social distancing expectations informed by Wisconsin public health experts and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control;

**WHEREAS**, Governor Evers issued Emergency Order #94 on November 10, 2020 advising all Wisconsin residents to stay home as much as possible due to the considerable spread of COVID-19.

**WHEREAS**, based on the specific circumstances in Eau Claire County and my investigation of COVID-19 in Eau Claire County I have determined that these community-wide expectations are necessary to prevent the spread of, suppress, and control COVID-19 in Eau Claire County;

**WHEREAS**, these expectations are intended to replace the EAU CLAIRE CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS effective October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in order to best address the local conditions of COVID-19 in Eau Claire County.

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

- 1. Individual Expectations.** All individuals are expected to meet the following public health and safety practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These health and safety practices are the best ways to slow spread of COVID-19.
  - Stay at home or place of residence as much as feasible.
  - If you travel and engage in activities that compromise physical distance, wear a cloth face covering and limit close contact , especially those that may be at elevated risk for severe symptoms if they become infected, for 14 days after those activities or travel, and monitor symptoms closely.

- When it is not feasible to stay at home because of required activities, maintain 6 feet distance from others and wear a properly fitting face coverings whenever in a room or other enclosed space with individuals that are not within their household, unless a face covering will be medically compromising.
- Avoid gatherings of any size between individuals who are not members of your immediate family or household.
- Stay home when sick with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and get tested. Do not go to work or school, or engage in other activities.
- Cooperate with any public health investigation as a COVID-19 case or close contact including required isolation and quarantine.
- Follow all public health orders or recommendations issued by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.
- Take available opportunities to provide material and emotional support to fellow Eau Claire residents for whom staying at home poses financial and psychological hardships.

**2 Expectations for Indoor and Outdoor Public Spaces and Buildings.** All public spaces and public buildings, including but not limited to schools and childcare, athletic spaces, businesses, government, and service providers, are expected to meet the following public health and safety practices to slow the spread of COVID-19.

- Implement measures to assure 6 feet can be maintained between individuals on the premises including but not limited to employees, students, customers, and members of the public.
- Limit the number of people on the premises, both indoors and outdoors to meet this 6 feet physical distance expectation. This includes maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between households/parties in spaces with fixed seating (e.g. dining tables, bars, waiting areas, workstations, desks etc.) This shall not be construed to expect physical distancing between individuals from the same household.
- Reduce overall occupancy by 50%.
- Implement policies to assure the use of face coverings by employees, students, customers and visitors in indoor spaces and buildings, other enclosed spaces, and in outdoor situations in which physical distancing cannot be maintained.

- Establish policies to prohibit any social activity that, by its very nature, promotes prolonged close contact (e.g. dancing, close contact sports, some types of performances) due to the inability to assure that 6 feet distance is maintained and the higher risk of COVID-19 spread. If held, it is expected that these activities be specifically organized in a way and with a deliberate design that decreases risks. Additionally, strategies are expected to be in place that assure a rapid response (contact tracing, testing, isolation, quarantine, messaging) for potential outbreaks which are more likely to happen in these activities.
- 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 employees, students, customers, visitors, and guests from entering the premises if they display COVID-19-like symptoms, have COVID-19, or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Adopt policies that actively support employees who are required to quarantine or isolate to stay home.
- Cooperate with public health investigations related to COVID-19 confirmed or suspected cases related to the entity or business operations, including excluding employees, students, others based on public health recommendations and assisting public health with identifying and contacting contacts of cases.
- To the greatest extent feasible, use technology to avoid meeting in person, including virtual meetings, teleconference, deliveries, drive-through item pick up, and remote work.
- Review and, as much as possible, adhere to 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.

**Additional Expectations for One-on-One Personal Services.**

Services that may require closer than 6 feet of contact are expected to meet all of paragraph 2 above as well as the following:

- 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.

- Have providers wear a face shield in addition to face coverings.
- Implement measures to maximize distance and minimize duration of contact among clients in waiting rooms and workstations.

**Additional expectations for Mass Transportation.**

Operators of mass transportation are expected to meet paragraph 2 above and when 6 feet of physical distance cannot be maintained are additionally expected to do the following:

- Buses with set riders, such as those on a school bus route, are expected to have assigned seats and daily attendance taken.
- Operators of mass transportation are expected to actively screen riders regarding COVID-19-like symptoms prior to boarding.

**3. Expectations for Gatherings.** Gatherings are defined as planned or spontaneous events that occur with a number of people in attendance in a defined location for a prolonged period of time. Examples may include such events as a concert, festival, conference, sporting event, celebration, or other public or private social event. Large events are not recommended for any reason. Classroom settings in daycare, K-12, and college or university settings are not considered public gatherings but must consider all expectations in paragraph 2.

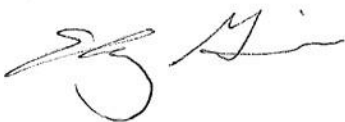
- Any public or private gathering is expected to be less than 10 people not including those people that are part of the same household.
- The indoor gathering of more than one household for socialization purposes is strongly discouraged.
- Constitutionally protected gatherings are encouraged to follow all COVID-19 physical distancing and face covering prevention strategies.
- Assigned or fixed seating in accordance with 6 feet physical distancing is strongly encouraged during any gathering.
- Organizers of gatherings are expected to document contact information of attendees for contact tracing purposes, to include each attendee's name, address, e-mail address, and phone number.
- Organizers of gatherings are expected to actively screen and prevent attendance of individuals, including staff, volunteers, and attendees, who have symptoms of COVID-19.

**Follow Other Applicable Guidelines.** All individuals, organizations, schools, businesses, government bodies, and any other group are expected to follow:

- DHS guidelines located here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm> and <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/employers.htm>
- CDC guidelines located here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>.
- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation guidelines on safe business practices, available here: <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>;
- Other applicable State of Wisconsin regulatory and/or industry-specific guidance.
- State of WI Emergency Order #94 issued On November 10th, 2020 advising all individuals to take certain actions to protect their family, friends, and neighbors from COVID-19.

**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 are urged to stay in their home or residence to the extent possible except as necessary to meet basic needs and seek medical care.

**Duration.** These expectations are effective immediately and shall remain in effect until superseding guidance is issued based on public health science and available data. Data shall be regularly examined to ensure the most salient recommendations are available to the public.



11/12/2020

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Elizabeth Giese

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Date

Eau Claire City-County Health Department