



Lincoln County Health Department

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Lincoln County COVID-19 Recommendation #2

August 3, 2020. We recognize that the State of Wisconsin and Lincoln County have made great progress in controlling the spread of the COVID-19. It is essential that we all do our part in doing what is reasonable and necessary to stop the transmission of COVID-19. Lincoln County is issuing the following recommendations as part of its continued commitment to control the transmission of the virus throughout our communities. We will continue to monitor data such as disease and disease exposure in the community, percent of those tested, and hospital capacity to assist us in monitoring the current situation. This data will assist us in modifying recommendations and best practices as needed.

1. Safety of Individuals

For individual health and the safety of the community, all individuals should:

- a. Maintain new social norms such as physical distancing, good hygiene, and frequent cleaning.
- b. Avoid gathering in large groups over 50.
- c. Follow the Governor's order #1 released on July 30, 2020 requiring face covering when around others.
- d. Stay home when sick; do not go to school or work and avoid congregate settings. Contact and follow the advice of your medical provider and public health department.
- e. Monitor yourself for [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, isolate from others if you develop symptoms.
- f. Individuals who are experiencing symptoms are strongly encouraged to be tested.
- g. If you test positive for COVID-19 or are exposed to someone, follow local health officials directives regarding isolation and quarantine.
- h. Avoid unnecessary travel, the [Centers of Disease Control](#) has a U.S. map with case information by state. When traveling practice physical distancing and good hygiene.
- i. Use virtual options to meet others versus face to face (doctors visit, meeting friends, services, purchasing, etc.)
- j. To the extent possible, vulnerable individuals should continue to stay home, wear a face covering when making essential trips, and not be exposed to large groups.
- k. The recommendations listed above are especially important for protecting our vulnerable populations as defined as people with compromised or weakened immune systems, and people with serious underlying health conditions.

2. Mass and Social Gatherings. Mass gatherings are those planned or spontaneous indoor or outdoor events with a large number of people in attendance.

- a. Lincoln County Health Officials recommend gatherings should not exceed more than 50 people, in addition for enclosed/indoor gatherings to not exceed 25% of the room capacity size as defined by municipalities.
- b. Physical distancing of 6 feet must be maintained at any gathering.
- c. Frequent cleaning and disinfection is recommended.
- d. No sharing of equipment, supplies, food (potlucks) etc.

Our mission: Providing services to residents promoting optimal health and safety through prevention, protection, and intervention.

3. Recreation and Amusement Activities

- a. To the extent possible, all reservations and payments should be made in advance online or by phone.
- b. Tee times, appointments, performances, shows, or other scheduled events must be scheduled to ensure that physical distancing can be maintained between all individuals at all times.
- c. Businesses shall limit the number of individuals on the premises (including employees) to 25% of the total occupancy limit established by the local municipality.
- d. Seating, stations, or recreational areas must be spaced to ensure at least 6 feet of physical distancing between each individual.
- e. High touch areas including door handles, rides, railings, buttons, games, touch screens, and equipment must be disinfected between each use. If it is not possible to do so, the area must be closed.
- f. **Large events:** Such as festivals, parades, concerts at this time are detrimental to the health of our community and should not be held.
- g. **Youth sports:** Lincoln County Health Department recommends to postpone youth sports at this time.
- h. **Outdoor Playgrounds and splash pads:** It is not recommended to have playgrounds open at this time.
- i. **Low Contact Recreation Activities:** Recommended with best practices implemented; limited number of people participating, good hygiene, no sharing of equipment, and 6 feet distancing.
- j. **High Risk Recreation Activities.** All contact sports are only recommended with household members at this time.
- k. **Licensed Swimming Pools:** It is recommended at this time to have no more than 25% capacity in pools.

4. Public and Private Schools and Childcare Centers

- **Child Care:** The Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Emergency Order #6 remains in effect. In consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families may adjust the child-to-staff ratios for childcare settings.
- **K-12 schools.** As Lincoln County K-12 private and public schools plan for the upcoming school year, it is recommended that they continue to follow Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as well as Wisconsin Department of Health guidelines. It is understood by Lincoln County Health Department that face-to-face instruction can meet the many multifaceted needs for families and students. It is also understood that no guidance to mitigation measures will completely remove the risk of exposure to COVID-19 while the virus is still in wide circulation. Students' participation in virtual instruction is the best way to prevent the spread of disease among students, families and the community, thus Lincoln County Health Department is strongly encouraging families to consider virtual instruction as a preferred option.

Lincoln County Health Department reminds schools of the essential need to implement the following practices to reduce the spread of disease if face-to-face instruction is provided: 1) physical distancing of 6 feet apart, 2) cohort students and staff, 3) conduct regular cleaning and disinfection, 4) teach, encourage and support the proper use of facial coverings, 5) screening of sick children and students, 6) timely contact tracing, 7) hand hygiene practices and cough etiquette will all directly affect the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the community setting.

5. Long-Term Congregate Living

- a. Follow regulatory authority guidelines and best practices from Wisconsin Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- b. Facilities should restrict all visitors and nonessential health care personnel, except for certain compassionate care situations, such as an end-of-life scenario.
- c. Implement strategies to address social isolation among residents.
- d. Implement active screening of residents and staff for fever and respiratory symptoms.
- e. Remind residents to practice physical distancing and perform frequent hand hygiene.
- f. Screen all staff at the beginning of their shift for fever and respiratory symptoms. Actively take their temperature and document the presence of a fever and respiratory symptoms.
- g. Call Lincoln County Health Department when a resident is tested for COVID-19
- h. Complete facility [self-assessment tool](#) to evaluate current readiness and guide development of a COVID-19.

6. All Businesses, Worksites, and Faith and Spiritual Communities

Lincoln County Health Officials recommend businesses follow the [WEDC guidelines](#) as well as any licensing regulations you need to follow. All public spaces 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:

- a. 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.
- b. 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. This shall not be construed to require physical distancing between individuals from the same household. This can be accomplished by adjusting the layout of your business to accommodate 6 feet physical distance.
- c. Cease door-to-door solicitation.
- d. Restrict the number of workers present on premises to no more than what is strictly necessary to perform operations.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. Adopt policies to actively screen and prevent customers, visitors, and guests from entering the premises if they display respiratory symptoms or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- h. Work with Lincoln County Health Department to conduct timely contact tracing of exposed employees.
- i. Follow Wisconsin Department of Health's guidance on testing employees for COVID-19.
- j. To the greatest extent feasible, use technology to avoid meeting in person, including virtual meetings, teleconference, and remote work.

7. Additional Retail, Restaurant, Bars Recommendations:

- a. Businesses must limit the number of individuals in the business (including employees) to 25% of the total occupancy limit established by the local municipality.

- b. Consider ceasing any self-service or self-dispensing operations of any type of food or beverage as well as sampling of goods.
- c. Establish lines to regulate entry in with markings for individuals to enable them to stand at least 6 feet apart from one another while waiting if distancing requirements cannot be maintained to allow individuals in the building.
- d. 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.
- e. Consider continuing curbside pick-up to reduce in- store traffic and mitigate outdoor lines.
- f. Accommodate the vulnerable populations by having dedicated shopping times.
- g. Review processes and workflow to ensure employees are at least 6 feet apart as often as possible.
- h. To the extent possible, stagger breaks and arrange the break areas and locker rooms to ensure physical distancing.
- i. Space tables and bar stools at least 6 feet apart. Limit each table to a maximum of 6 guests. At bar areas, maintain at least 6 feet between each stool. Require customers use seating options and close any area that is standing only.
- j. Staff must use gloves to avoid bare hand contact with food or unwrapped single-use items such as straws, stir sticks, or toothpicks.
- k. Along with the health department, provide accurate and timely information to the public on risk of community exposures.
- l. **Lodging:** 1). Close swimming pools, hot tubs, and exercise facilities. 2). Prohibit guests from congregating in lobbies or other common areas, including providing adequate space to adhere to physical distancing while queuing for front desk services. 3). Adopt cleaning protocols for guest rooms and common areas based on [WEDC guidelines](#). Provide training for housekeeping associates for proper handling of linens and cleaning/disinfecting supplies and provide appropriate personal protective equipment. 4). Schedule at least 24-hour gaps in the use of rooms between guests.

Note for all businesses: It is necessary to cooperate with public health on COVID-19 investigations related to business operations. This includes excluding employees based on public health recommendations and assisting public health by identifying contacts for purpose of contact tracing.