

Lincoln County COVID-19 Recommendation #4

March 24, 2021 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 continue to work and stay in a downward trend for the transmission of COVID-19. As of March 24, Lincoln County is at Medium disease activity level. **Current disease activity and other data metrics for Lincoln County can be accessed at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/disease.htm>. Data is updated weekly on Wednesdays.** 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. For more on Lincoln County's response plan for the mitigation of COVID-19, see Lincoln County [COVID-19 Mitigation and Response Plan](#).

1. Safety of Individuals

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

- a. Follow the [Governor's order #1](#) requiring face covering when around others.
- b. Follow [Executive order #94](#), Actions every Wisconsinites should take to protect family, friends and neighbors from COVID-19.
- c. Get your COVID-19 Vaccination once eligible. It continues to be important that fully vaccinated people follow [public health best practices](#) in public spaces. This includes wearing a mask and physically distancing.
- 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. Self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days after travel.
- i. If not fully vaccinated, use virtual options to meet others versus face to face (meeting friends, services, purchasing, etc.).
- j. The recommendations above, including vaccination, is especially important for protecting our vulnerable populations as defined as people with compromised or weakened immune systems, and people with serious underlying health conditions, along with maintaining our hospital capacities.

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

Critically/Very High: When disease activity is critically/very high we ask that everyone avoid gathering in large groups; the recommendation is to limit gatherings to less than 10 while maintaining best practices.

High: When disease activity is high, limit gatherings to no more than 50 with a room capacity of no more than 25% occupied while maintaining the best practices listed below.

Medium: When disease activity is medium, limit gathering to no more than 100 not to exceed 50% of the room capacity size with face covering and physical distancing.

Low: When disease activity is low, limit gathering to no more than 250 not to exceed 50% of the room capacity size.

Best Practices:

- Face covering
- Physical distancing of 6 feet must be maintained at any gathering.
- Frequent cleaning and disinfection is recommended.
- No sharing of equipment, supplies, food (potlucks) etc.

3. Recreation and Amusement Activities

- a. Seating, stations, or recreational areas must be spaced to ensure at least 6 feet of physical distancing between each individual.
- b. 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.
- c. To the extent possible, all reservations and payments should be made in advance online or by phone.
- d. Tee times, appointments, performances, shows, or other scheduled events should be scheduled to ensure that physical distancing can be maintained between all individuals at all times.

e. **Outdoor Festivals/Amusement Parks/Parades/Concerts:**

Critically/Very High: When disease activity is critically/very high these activities are detrimental to the health of our community and should not be held.

High: When disease activity is high the recommendation is 50 people maximum, not to exceed 25% capacity with best practices.

Medium: When disease activity is medium the recommendation is 100 people maximum, not to exceed 50% capacity with best practices.

Low: When disease activity is low the recommendation is 250 people maximum, not to exceed 75% capacity with best practices.

f. **Low Contact Sports:**

Critically/Very High: When disease activity is critically/very high the recommendation is yes, with household members.

High, Medium or Low: When disease activity is high, medium or low the recommendation is yes, with best practices.

g. **High Contact Sports:**

Critically/Very High and High: when disease activity is critically/very high or high the recommendation is no, not at this time.

Medium or Low: When disease activity is medium or low the recommendation is yes, with best practices.

h. **Outdoor Playgrounds and Splash Pads:**

Critically/Very High and High: when disease activity is critically/very high or high the recommendation is no, not at this time.

- i. **Medium or Low:** When disease activity is medium or low the recommendation is yes, with best practices.
- j. **Indoor and Outdoor Recreation** (camping, movie theater, clubs, skating, pools)
Critically/Very High: When disease activity is critically/very high the recommendation is no, not at this time.
High: When disease activity is high the recommendation is yes, open with best practices and 25% capacity.
Medium: When disease activity is medium the recommendation is yes, open with best practices and 50% capacity.
Low: When disease activity is low the recommendation is yes, open with best practices and 75% capacity.

4. Public and Private Schools and Childcare Centers

- **Child Care:** It is recommended that childcare follow the guidelines set by the [Wisconsin Department of Children and Family Services](#) and Wisconsin Department of Health.
- **K-12 schools.** Lincoln County K-12 private and public schools should 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, if best practices cannot be followed by students and families such as physical distancing and face covering.
 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) COVID 19 vaccination, 8) hand hygiene practices and cough etiquette will all directly affect the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the community setting. The Centers of Disease Control continues to research the effectiveness of best practices in the school setting and will continue to update recommendations based on findings.
- **Youth Sports:** Follow the [Centers and Disease Control and Prevention](#) guidance and recommendations.

5. Long-Term/Congregate Living

- a. Follow regulatory authority guidelines and best practices from [Wisconsin Department of Health Quality Assurance](#).
- b. COVID-19 vaccination for residents and staff.
- c. Facilities should review visitation policies as it relates to the rate of disease spread in the community and the facility.
- d. Implement strategies to address social isolation among residents.
- e. Implement active screening of residents and staff for fever and respiratory symptoms.
- f. Remind residents and staff to wear face covering/PPE, practice physical distancing and perform frequent hand hygiene based on CDC and Quality Assurance recommendations.
- g. Implement processes that evaluate the compliance of staff wearing PPE properly when caring for residents.

- h. 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.
- i. Report disease timely to Lincoln County Health Department as it relates to staff and residents illness and or exposure.
- j. Complete facility [self-assessment tool](#) to evaluate current readiness and guide development of a COVID-19 plan.

6. All Businesses and Worksites

Lincoln County Health Officials recommend businesses follow the [WEDC guidelines](#) as well as licensing regulations. 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:

Critically/Very High: When disease activity is [critically/very high](#), the recommendations are to consider allowing only essential workforce on-site with active monitoring of symptoms, physical distancing and face covering when feasible.

High: When disease activity is [high](#), the recommendation is to continue remote work as feasible. For those who can't work remotely, consider allowing no more than 25% of the workforce onsite with active monitoring of symptoms, physical distancing, and face covering when feasible.

Medium: When disease activity is [medium](#), the recommendation is to continue remote work as feasible. For those who can't work remotely, consider allowing no more than 50% of the workforce onsite with active monitoring of symptoms, physical distancing, and face covering when feasible.

Low: When disease activity is [low](#), the recommendation is to continue remote work as feasible. For those who can't work remotely, consider allowing no more than 75% of the workforce onsite.

- 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.

- k. Assist employees in gaining access to vaccine clinics and encourage vaccination.

7. Additional Recommendations for Retail, Restaurant, Bars and Other Facilities:

Critically/Very High: When disease activity is critically/very high, the recommendation is to limit business to mail, delivery, and curb side pick-up. Stores with outside entrances should limit number of patrons in at one time.

High: When disease activity is high, the recommendation is to limit the number of individuals on the premises to 25% of the total occupancy for restaurants and bars; 50% for retail.

Medium: When disease activity is medium, the recommendation is to limit the number of individuals on the premises to 50% of the total occupancy for restaurants, retail and bars.

Low: When disease activity is low, the recommendation is to limit the number of individuals on the premises to 75% of the total occupancy for restaurants, bars and retail.

- a. Develop or update employee illness policy to include COVID-19.
- 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. Remove any extra chairs and tables to discourage congregation of persons.
- 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. Cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces between uses. This should include, tables, chairs, menus, server trays, door knobs, handles, and any utensils on tables (salt/pepper, etc.).

m. Lodging:

Critically/Very High and High: when disease activity is critically/very high or high the recommendation is 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.

Medium: when disease activity is medium the recommendation is 50% capacity with the closer of swimming pools, hot tubs, and exercise facilities.

Low: when disease activity is low the recommendation is 75% capacity.

n. Hair Salons, Tattoo, Spas:

Critically/Very High: when disease activity is critically/very high the recommendation is no, not open to the public.

High: when disease activity is high the recommendation is yes, with limited capacity (25%) with employees wearing face covering at all times, chairs and tables 6 feet part and customers wear facing covering as feasible.

Medium: when disease activity is medium the recommendation is yes, with limited capacity (50%) with employees wearing face covering at all times, chairs and tables 6 feet part and customers wear facing covering as feasible.

Low: when disease activity is low the recommendation is yes, with limited capacity (75%) with best practices.

o. Gyms/Recreation Facilities:

Critically/Very High: when disease activity is critically/very high the recommendation is no, not open to the public.

High: when disease activity is high the recommendation is yes, with limited capacity (25%). Contact sports areas closed. Saunas and steam rooms closed.

Medium: when disease activity is medium the recommendation is yes, with limited capacity (50%). Contact sports areas closed. Saunas and steam rooms closed.

Low: when disease activity is low the recommendation is yes, with limited capacity (75%).

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.