

CENTRAL RACINE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ISSUES NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT RULING

May 14, 2020

The Wisconsin Supreme Court rendered a decision on May 13, 2020 which allowed businesses to open. In response to the Wisconsin Supreme Court's ruling overturning the Safer at Home order, the Central Racine County Health Department today issued new, strong recommendations in the department's jurisdiction.

"With the Safer at Home order no longer in effect, it's crucial that individuals and businesses adhere to smart practices and that individuals exercise safe behaviors so that we can prevent COVID-19 illness and deaths while supporting citizens who have been adversely impacted by the pandemic," said Margaret Gesner, Health Officer for the Central Racine County Department. "If we do not maintain best practices, more businesses may be forced to close for prolonged periods due to a high number of sick employees or outbreaks, hospitals may be overrun by ill individuals, more outbreaks may occur in our congregate settings such as nursing homes, and our community may experience preventable deaths, all unacceptable outcomes for our community and our businesses. We must protect the most vulnerable amongst us by committing to these safe practices."

Businesses are urged to adhere to social distancing-related guidelines which include but are not limited to the following:

- All retail establishments should limit the number of customers and staff to no more than 50% of store capacity.
- All restaurants should limit the number of customers and staff to 50% of establishment capacity. There should be no more than 6 people per table; tables should be arranged so that patrons at a given table are at least 6 feet from patrons at any other table.
- Bars should limit the number of staff and customers to 50% capacity.
- Mass gatherings whether indoor or outdoor should be limited to 50 persons or 25% of capacity, whichever is greater.
- Large venues and businesses should be limited to 4 people per 1000 square feet.
- Places of public amusement whether indoor or outdoor should be limited to 50 people or 25% capacity, whichever is greater.
- Festivals and fairs scheduled should be cancelled, postponed, or rescheduled for now.

Failure by entities or locations to adhere to social distancing guidelines that results in people being infected or suspected of being infected may result in the spread of COVID-19 and further restrictions on those specific entities or locations.

**Serving Caledonia, Dover, Mt. Pleasant, North Bay, Norway, Raymond, Rochester, Sturtevant,
Union Grove, Yorkville, Town and Village of Waterford, Town and City of Burlington**

Businesses are encouraged to review the *CRCHD Recommendations for Reopening Our Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic* at www.crchd.com/covid-19 and the Rebound Racine County Task Force final report, which provided sector-by-sector action steps to safely and efficiently reopen. The report can be found [here](#). The Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. provided similar reopening guidelines, which can be found [here](#).

Residents should strictly follow social distancing guidelines of at least 6 feet of separation between other people. Residents should limit travel, avoid crowds, wash hands regularly, and wear facemasks when in public.

The Central Racine County Health Department jurisdiction includes Caledonia, Dover, Mount Pleasant, North Bay, Norway, Raymond, Rochester, Sturtevant, Union Grove, Yorkville, the Town and Village of Waterford, and the Town and City of Burlington. Orders from the City of Racine Public Health Department, a jurisdiction that includes the City of Racine, Elmwood Park and Wind Point, do not apply. The Central Racine County Health Department is a separate entity from Racine County government.