

CENTRAL RACINE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES REOPENING GUIDANCE

June 29, 2020

Today, the Central Racine County Health Department (CRCHD) released its latest version of [Recommendations for Reopening Our Community](http://www.crchd.com/covid-19) which can be found at www.crchd.com/covid-19. The document contains recommendations by activity and sector, including recommendations for individuals, schools, childcare centers, summer camps, businesses, workplaces, faith and spiritual communities, recreational activities and mass gatherings.

The recommendations are based on overall community transmission and the associated risk to community members. As community risk increases or decreases, so may the chance of someone being infected. "As we continue to learn more about disease transmission in various settings and the susceptibility of various populations, recommendations in this document will continue to change," said Margaret Gesner, Health Officer for CRCHD. "Information in this document is intended to help mitigate risk, but risk cannot be entirely eliminated even with mitigation steps in place. While opening to any degree may have benefits, opening also carries with it the potential for unintentional spread of disease."

CRCHD utilizes burden (case rate) over 14 days to identify the current risk category for the jurisdiction which currently is classified as "moderate." At a "moderate" risk level, the community should be prepared for additional cases which means that most businesses should not be operating at 100%, with few exceptions. These data are updated weekly and are on the CRCHD website www.crchd.com/covid-19. CRCHD tracks other metrics which may be added into the risk equation in the future, including ones such as disease trajectory, diagnostic testing capacity, healthcare system capacity, and public health capacity. "The coronavirus pandemic has not gone away," said Gesner. "We need the entire community to remain vigilant so that our case rate does not increase. If our COVID-19 cases surge, our hospitals may be overwhelmed, and we may experience an increase in preventable deaths. These are all unacceptable outcomes for our community. We must protect the most vulnerable amongst us."

With many states showing the impact of opening too quickly, important measures that everyone should take to mitigate the spread of infection to protect individuals in the pre-vaccine environment include:

- Using nonmedical face covering
- Implementing school and worksite screening for symptoms of COVID-19
- Incorporating engineering controls such as physical barriers where possible
- Reconfiguring space to enable people to be located apart (ideally, at least 6 feet)
- Cleaning and disinfecting according to CDC guidance
- Posting signage to promote physical distancing and use of face coverings
- Ensuring people with symptoms of COVID-19 stay home and call their healthcare provider
- Washing hands frequently; covering your cough, avoiding touching your face; disinfecting frequently touched objects
- Following Central Racine County Health Department isolation and quarantine orders

Note: People over age 65 and/or with underlying medical conditions may need to take additional precautions and should consult with their medical provider before going into the public, work, or other setting.

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