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Sauk County Public Health Announces Guidance on Governor’s Safer at Home Order

Sauk County—On March 24, 2020, Governor Evers issued orders prohibiting all travel except for providing or receiving essential services. This order is effective March 25 at 8:00 am through April 24, 2020.

“The State has put together a nice set of resources for multiple sectors and types of activities across the community,” said Tim Lawther, Sauk County Health Officer. “The guidance defines what is essential and what is non-essential during this public health outbreak.”

Please see this link for the order (https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/03/24/file_attachments/1409408/Health%20Order%20%20Safer%20At%20Home.pdf), and this link for a description of the essential services (www.wedc.org/essentialbusiness/). This information can also be accessed on the Sauk County Public Health site (https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/coronavirus).

Under this order, Wisconsin residents are able to:

- Perform tasks essential to maintain health and safety, such as obtaining medicine or seeing a doctor
- Get necessary services or supplies for themselves or their family or household members, such as getting groceries, pet food, and supplies necessary for staying at home
- Care for a family member in another household
- Care for older adults, minors, dependents, people with disabilities, or other vulnerable people

Businesses allowed to operate under the Safer at Home order include, but are not limited to:

- Health care operations, including home health workers
- Pharmacies, health care supply stores, and health care facilities
- Child care facilities, with some limitations
- Critical infrastructure
- Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise vulnerable individuals
- Fresh and non-perishable food retailers, including convenience stores, grocery stores, farmers’ markets, and food banks
- Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, and goods directly to residences
Gas stations and auto repair facilities
Banks
Laundry businesses, dry cleaners, and services necessary for maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of a residence, including garbage collection
Hardware stores, plumbers, and electricians
Agriculture, including feed mills and veterinarians
Educational institutions, for the purposes of facilitating distance learning
Roles required for any business to maintain minimum basic operations, which includes security and payroll
Law and safety, and essential government functions will continue under the recommended action

The order contains detailed information regarding the exemptions provided to certain businesses. If a business is unsure about whether or not they are exempted from this order, please contact the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation at www.wedc.org/essentialbusiness/.

“We need to assume there are undiagnosed cases of COVID-19 in our community. That’s why it’s so important that every one of us practice good prevention measures, especially social distancing, as outlined in the Governor’s order,” said Lawther. Those prevention measures include:

- Stay at home unless you are providing an essential service, or urgently need to receive an essential service
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet between yourself and others if you absolutely must leave your house to provide or receive an essential service
- Do not leave your house if you are sick, and maintain social distancing within your home as much as possible
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid touching your face
- Stay away from people who are sick
- Call your healthcare provider before you go in

People who have a fever (over 100.4 degrees) and cough should quarantine at home and monitor their symptoms. If symptoms get worse, especially if you start to experience difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, you should call your healthcare provider. The vast majority of people with COVID-19 will get better resting at home.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. For the latest information, visit the CDC’s website (www.cdc.gov/COVID19), the DHS website (https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm), or the Sauk County Public Health website (https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/).