

Public Health



Sauk County Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAUK COUNTY GUIDANCE FOR SAFELY GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LIFE

SAUK COUNTY, WI – Sauk County Public Health (SCPH) will NOT issue a local public health order requiring continuation of the state’s Safer at Home order at this time. That is not the right decision for Sauk County right now. Instead, SCPH is issuing guidance to help businesses, organizations, families, and individuals continue to stay safe themselves and help protect others from COVID-19. Any effective plan to reopen our community will be dependent on individuals, business owners, and community leaders making personal and business decisions to proactively protect themselves, their guests, their customers, and their staff. “Sauk County Public Health believes that our community will follow these guidelines and implement strategies to proceed with caution and open safely,” said Tim Lawther, Sauk County Health Officer.

Businesses and community organizations need to be able to open as soon as safely possible. “It is our very strong recommendation that no entity should be opening their doors to the public or their employees without being ready to fully implement the strategies and tools from the [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation \(WEDC\)](#) and [Sauk County Public Health](#),” said Lawther. “If we open too quickly, we risk a resurgence of COVID-19 and further delaying our return to a strong economy.”

To be successful, guidance for business, community, and faith organizations must be as consistent as possible, unless there is specific evidence or data which suggests it should be different. Non-commercial organizations, like churches and social service entities, also need to prepare to reopen safely. Guidance and preparation checklists for these organizations are also located on the SCPH [Prepare to Re-Open](#) website, and more are being created regularly.

The protective steps we all took as part of the Safer at Home order were working. Prior to Safer at Home, the number of Wisconsinites testing positive for COVID-19 was doubling every 3.4 days. By April 14, that rate of doubling had fallen to about every 12 days. Now is not the time to stop our successful protective steps – they are working. “Please continue to practice smart prevention measures even as you re-engage in business and community life,” said Lawther. “The success of our community in avoiding a resurgence of COVID-19 lies with all of us making the right decisions to protect ourselves, our neighbors, and our customers.” These include:

- Maintain 6' physical distancing
- Wear a face covering in public
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid groups >10 people
- Disinfect surfaces
- Wash hands frequently
- Stay home when sick
- Avoid touching your face

More information can always be found on the [Sauk County Public Health website](#), or by calling (608) 355-3290.

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