

SAUK COUNTY REOPENING AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES BY PHASE

Every sector of our community is different, and organizations within each of those sectors are also different. It is not possible to outline written guidance for every scenario or unique situation. All businesses should be ready to fully implement [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation \(WEDC\)](#) and [SCPH guidance](#) BEFORE they open their doors to staff or customers. The timing of each phase will depend on the [data collected and analyzed](#) at Sauk County Public Health (SCPH), in consultation with local, regional, state, and national partners.

Phase 1: Recovery - Guidance

Phase 1 Guidance for Individuals

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. It is important to our successful reopening to continue to practice smart prevention measures even as you re-engage in business and community life. 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
- Minimize non-essential travel
- Stay home when sick
- Avoid touching your face
- Vulnerable people should continue to be very cautious and shelter in place

In addition to these individual guidelines:

- Members of households with vulnerable members should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not practical, they could carry the virus back home; precautions should be taken to protect these vulnerable residents from household members who may pose unintentional risk.
- All individuals, when in public (e.g., parks, outdoor recreation areas, shopping areas), should maximize physical distance from others.
- Avoid socializing in groups of more than 10 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing (e.g., receptions, trade shows), unless precautionary measures can be observed.
- Minimize non-essential travel and adhere to CDC guidelines regarding quarantine following travel.
- Stop unnecessary visits to nursing homes, congregate facilities, and hospitals.

Phase 1 Guidance for Businesses & Organizations

Businesses and community organizations need to be able to open as soon as safely possible. 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](#). 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 located on the [SCPH website](#), and more are being created regularly.

In addition to adhering to WEDC and SCPH guidance, businesses and organizations should consider the following during Phase 1:

- *Worksite Venue and Setup*
 - Whenever feasible, strongly encourage staff to work from home, except for the minimum required for basic on-site functions. Employers should continue to encourage telework past the time it is required if feasible, and develop a plan to have staff return to onsite work in phases.
 - Close common areas where personnel are likely to congregate or have close, direct contact; alternatively, employers can consider enforce strict physical distancing protocols, in which workers are kept 6' apart whenever possible.
 - Limit in-person meetings of any size; communicate virtually wherever possible.
 - Reduce on-site work hours to minimum needed to sustain operations.
 - Stagger shifts and work hours to maximize physical distancing.
 - Stagger use of all shared spaces, including bathrooms, breakrooms and lunchrooms.
 - Stagger facility entry and exit procedures maintaining at least 6 feet physical distancing.
 - Limit non-essential deliveries.
 - Limit non-essential visitors (including suppliers and customers) except those approved by senior management.
 - Tape off six-by-six-foot boxes on the floor of areas where customers queue up, such as at check-in desks or check-out registers.
 - If feasible, use plastic sheeting, plexiglass, or another transparent barrier to separate workers from customers, such as:
 - At check-in desks.
 - At cash registers.
 - Between the front and rear seat of vehicles.
 - Increase ventilation rates.
 - Increase the percentage of outdoor air that circulates into the system.
- *Workplace Policies*
 - Encourage on-site workers to wear cloth face coverings.
 - Develop an active staff monitoring system that assesses symptoms, exposures, and temperature upon arrival to the worksite (preferred); or if not possible, ask workers to monitor on their own and report them at the beginning of each shift.
 - No hand shaking or other forms of physical contact.

- When possible, prevent workers from working at multiple buildings, plants and sites.
- Strongly consider special accommodations for personnel who are members of a vulnerable population.
- *Guidance for Specific Sectors*
 - Activities that take place at school are encouraged to still involve physical distancing, occur in groups less than 10 in any one space, and assess and exclude participants who have symptoms or exposure to individuals with COVID-19 or individuals with COVID-19 like symptoms who have not been tested.
 - Child care centers can operate but should still utilize physical distancing as much as possible, adhere to the gathering recommendations of 10 or less in any one space (this is in addition to all normal childcare-specific guidance of teacher-to-student ratios), and assess and exclude participants who have symptoms or exposure to individuals with COVID-19 or individuals with COVID-19 like symptoms who have not been tested.
 - Organized youth activities such as camp should still incorporate physical distancing, less than 10 people in any one space, (this is in addition to all normal childcare-specific guidance of teacher-to-student ratios), and assess and exclude participants who have symptoms or exposure to individuals with COVID-19 or individuals with COVID-19 like symptoms who have not been tested.
 - Visits to senior living facilities should continue to be prohibited until a vaccine is developed; those who do interact with residents and patients such as staff members must adhere to strict protocols regarding PPE use, hygiene, and active monitoring.

Phase 2 – Revitalization – Guidance

Phase 2 Guidance for Individuals

Primary difference moving into Phase 2: the number of people who can gather in one group will be 50 people.

In addition:

- **All vulnerable individuals (people over age 60, those with medical conditions) should continue to shelter in place during Phase 2.**
- Members of households with vulnerable members should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not practical, they could carry the virus back home; precautions should be taken to protect these vulnerable residents from household members who may pose unintentional risk.
- All individuals, when in public should maximize physical distance from others.
- Social settings of more than 50 people, where appropriate distancing may not be practical, should be avoided.
- Increase ventilation rates.
- Increase the percentage of outdoor air that circulates into the system.
- Non-essential travel can resume.
- Continue to avoid unnecessary visits to nursing homes, congregate facilities, and hospitals.

Phase 2 Guidance for Businesses & Organizations

- Continue to encourage telework, whenever possible and feasible with business operations.
- Keep common areas where personnel are likely to congregate and interact closed, or enforce physical distancing protocols.
- Strongly consider special accommodations for personnel who are members of a vulnerable population.

Phase 3 – New Normal – Guidance

Phase 3 Guidance for Individuals

- Vulnerable individuals can resume public interactions, but should practice physical distancing, minimizing exposure to social settings where distancing may not be practical, unless precautionary measures are observed.
- Low-risk populations should consider minimizing time spent in crowded environments.
- Increase ventilation rates.
- Increase the percentage of outdoor air that circulates into the system.

Phase 3 Guidance for Businesses & Organizations

- Employers should continue best practices-- physical distancing, hygiene, and excluding from work those who are symptomatic or exposed-- until such a time as an effective vaccine is developed and deployed in mass.