



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Health Emergency COVID-19 Alert

Very High COVID-19 Activity Levels – Take Action to Stop the Spread

City of Appleton, City of Menasha, Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago County Health Departments

Very high levels of COVID-19 cases are resulting in increased COVID-19 related hospitalizations and deaths. Public health officers are issuing a **Public Health Emergency COVID-19 Alert**. Due to escalation in cases, public health is not able to notify positive cases and their close contacts in a timely manner. This severely limits efforts to contain the virus. Hospitals are enacting emergency plans. Public health implores everyone to take actions to stop uncontrolled community spread.

Take Action Now - Stop the Spread

- Physically distance at least 6 feet from people with whom you do not live.
- Wear a cloth face mask, unless unable to wear one for medical reasons.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Indoors, do not gather with people outside of your household.
- Outdoors, limit gatherings to 10 people or fewer, physically distance and wear face coverings.
- Self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days after return from travel.
- If symptomatic, call your health care provider, [get a test](#), and stay home while awaiting results.
- Cooperate with public health officials if you have tested positive or are a close contact.

During this very high rate of transmission of COVID-19, we encourage the following strategies as found in the Wisconsin Department of Health Services [COVID-19 Data and Mitigation Strategies to Aid Local Communities](#).

Businesses and community organizations use [WEDC Guidelines](#).

Community Gatherings: Do not hold indoor gatherings. Limit outdoor gatherings to 10 people or fewer; physically distance and wear face coverings.

Restaurants, Bars: Offer take-out, curbside pick-up or delivery only. Close indoor bars.

Salons, Spas, Gyms: Provide minimum operations only.

Offices, Workplaces: Keep only essential workforce on-site; symptom monitor; use precautions.

Grocery Stores, Pharmacies: Remain open, with no dine in, self-service or customer dispensing.

Retail: Use mail delivery and curbside pick-up options. Limit the number of patrons who enter.

Hotels, Lodging: Use strict sanitation protocols.

Concerts, Festivals, Sporting Events: Do not hold these events at this time.

For more information on cases in your area and COVID-19 recommendations, visit your local health department's website.

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References:

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, *COVID-19 Activity Level by Region or County*. 2020
Retrieved on September 30, 2020 from: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, *COVID-19 Data and Mitigation Strategies to Aid Local Communities*, 2020. Retrieved on September 30, 2020 from:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/093020.htm>