



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health Services**

Tony Evers, Governor  
Andrea Palm, Secretary

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**EMERGENCY ORDER #8**  
**UPDATED MASS GATHERING BAN**

Under the authority of Wis. Stat. § 252.02(3) and at the direction of Governor Tony Evers, I, Andrea Palm, Secretary-designee of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, order the following:

1. Except for Emergency Order #6, this order supersedes any previous Emergency Order that conflicts with this order.
2. ENFORCEMENT. This order is enforceable by any local law enforcement official, including county sheriffs. Violation or obstruction of this order is punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment, up to a \$250 fine, or both. Wis. Stat. § 252.25.
3. DEFINITIONS. In this order:
  - a. “Mass gathering” means any planned or spontaneous, public or private event or convening that will bring together or is likely to bring together 10 or more people in a single room or single confined or enclosed space, whether inside or outside, at the same time.
  - b. “Social distancing” means maintaining at least six feet between people and avoiding all direct physical contact.
4. BAN ON MASS GATHERINGS. Effective at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all public and private mass gatherings are prohibited in the State of Wisconsin.

All gatherings that bring together or are likely to bring together less than 10 people in a single room or confined or enclosed space, whether inside or outside, at the same time must:

- a. Preserve social distancing; and
- b. Follow all other public health recommendations issued by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Voluntary cancellation, closure, or limitations on the size of gathering beyond the requirements of this order are permitted and encouraged.

5. CLOSURES

- a. SCHOOLS. Effective at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, all public and private schools in the State of Wisconsin shall close for pupil instruction and extracurricular activities. Such institutions shall remain closed for the duration of the public health emergency or until a subsequent order lifts this specific restriction. Schools may be used for other purposes, including school board meetings, polling locations, and food distribution. This section does not apply to facilities or schools operated by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.
- b. Hair salons, barber shops, nail salons, day spas, tattoo parlors, body art establishments, and tanning facilities. All of these entities must close effective at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2020.

6. EXEMPTIONS. The following entities are exempt from the ban on mass gatherings. Exempted facilities, activities, and locations are encouraged to implement social distancing to the greatest extent feasible. All activities and functions directly related to an exempted entity are exempt.

a. BARS AND RESTAURANTS

- i. Breweries, brewpubs, wineries, distilleries, and alcohol beverage retailers, including bars, are closed to the public except as follows:
  - 1. Carryout sales of alcohol beverages and food are allowed, if permitted by state law and municipal ordinance.
  - 2. Customers may enter the above establishments only for the purpose of ordering, pick up and paying for food or beverages or both. No seating may be provided, and food and drink may not be consumed on premises, either indoors or outdoors. Establishments shall preserve social distancing between customers during ordering and pick up.
  - 3. Delivery of alcohol beverages to retail customers is prohibited, unless the customer first comes to the licensed or permitted premises to make payment in person, face-to-face.

4. Wineries holding direct wine shippers' permits may make deliveries of wine in accordance with their permit.
  5. Self-service operations of salad bars, beverage stations, and buffets are prohibited.
  6. Customers are prohibited from self-dispensing all unpackaged food.
- ii. Restaurants are closed to the public except as follows:
    1. Restaurants may remain open for food take-out or delivery service only. Alcohol sales must comply with Section 6.a.i. above.
    2. Customers may enter the above establishments only for the purpose of ordering, pick up and paying for food or beverages or both. No seating may be provided, and no food or beverages may be consumed on premises. These restrictions apply to both indoor and outdoor spaces.
    3. Self-service operations of salad bars, beverage stations, and buffets are prohibited.
    4. Customers are prohibited from self-dispensing all unpackaged food.
    5. Restaurants shall preserve social distancing between customers during take-out.
- b. **CHILDCARE LOCATIONS AND CHILDREN AND YOUTH FACILITIES**
- i. Except as provided in Emergency Health Order #6 and DCF Guidance Order #2, childcare providers.
  - ii. Group homes, shelter care facilities, runaway homes, residential care centers for children and youth, crisis stabilization centers, secured residential care centers for children and youth, Type 2 residential centers for children and youth, juvenile correction facilities, and Type 1 and Type 2 juvenile correction facilities.
- c. **COMMERICAL AND NON-PROFIT ENTITIES**
- i. Office spaces. Such facilities shall implement social distancing, including having employees work remotely, as much as practicable.
  - ii. Manufacturing, processing, distribution, and production facilities. Such facilities shall implement social distancing as much as practicable.
  - iii. Job centers.

- iv. Shelter facilities, including day shelters, for individuals and families.
- v. Prevocational group supportive employment.
- vi. Providers of veterinary care for animals.
- d. CONSTRUCTION
  - i. Construction sites and projects, including public works and remodeling projects.
- e. ENERGY AND TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE
  - i. Utilities and all entities necessary for energy production, distribution, and maintenance.
  - ii. Telecommunication companies.
  - iii. Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and Public Benefits Energy Assistance Program offices, customer service centers, and public intake centers.
- f. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES
  - i. Banks, credit unions, and other depository institutions.
  - ii. Licensed financial service providers.
  - iii. Personnel necessary to perform essential functions at broker dealers and investment advisor offices.
  - iv. Entities covered under this section shall maintain social distancing between customers.
- g. FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION
  - i. Activities necessary to cultivate and distribute food including farming, livestock, and fishing.
  - ii. Food pantries and food banks.
  - iii. Services, supply, packaging and other providers who are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of food production.
  - iv. Retail establishments and auctions that sell animals for production agriculture, animal feed, and agricultural equipment and parts
  - v. Retail food establishments, bakeries, grocery stores, convenience stores, and produce stands engaged in the retail sale of food, including pet supply, if the following requirements are met:
    - 1. Close all seating intended for consuming food;
    - 2. Cease self-service operations of salad bars, beverage stations, and buffets; and
    - 3. Except for grocery stores, prohibit customers from self-dispensing all unpackaged food.

- vi. Certified farmers' markets, if the following requirements are met:
  - 1. Prohibit customers from self-dispensing all unpackaged food; and
  - 2. Maintain social distancing between customers and vendors.

h. HEALTHCARE

- i. All health care facilities and related facilities, including hospitals, medical facilities, home health agencies, personal care agencies, hospices, allied health providers, acupuncturists, massage therapists, chiropractors, adult family homes, dentists, blood drives and blood banks, and pharmacies.
- ii. Cafeterias and food service in health care facilities may remain open, for staff and authorized visitors only, subject to the following restrictions:
  - 1. Self-service operations of salad bars, beverage stations, and buffets are prohibited.
  - 2. Customers are prohibited from self-dispensing all unpackaged food.
  - 3. The facility shall preserve social distancing between customers.
- iii. Detoxification and alcohol or drug treatment programs and facilities.
- iv. Long-term care and assisted living facilities, as long as the facility follows all current Department of Health Services' Recommendations for Prevention of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities and all applicable U.S. Centers for Disease Control Recommendations.
- v. Adult day care, adult day services, and supportive home care.

i. GOVERNMENT AND FIRST RESPONDERS

- i. All first responder facilities and functions, including law enforcement, EMS, and firefighters.
- ii. Any facility or function necessary to respond to a disaster or public health emergency.
- iii. Except as provided for schools in Section 5 above, all local, state, and federal government facilities and functions. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - 1. Criminal justice and correctional facilities and functions, such as jails, secured juvenile detention

- facilities, Huber facilities, municipal lock-ups, state correctional institutions, and other similar facilities.
      - 2. The Wisconsin Court System.
      - 3. The Wisconsin Legislature.
      - 4. Military and National Guard facilities.
    - iv. All government entities listed under this section shall practice social distancing to the greatest extent practicable.
  - j. LODGING
    - i. Hotels and motels if the following requirements are met:
      - 1. Bars and restaurants in hotels and motels must comply with the requirements in Section 6.a above.
      - 2. Guests shall not congregate in lobbies or other common areas.
    - ii. All residential buildings, shared rental units, homeless shelters, or other similar facilities where a person usually sleeps.
  - k. MEDIA
    - i. Media and news organizations.
  - l. RETAIL AND LAUNDROMATS
    - i. Retail establishments, including gas stations, where large numbers of people are present but are not generally within arm's length of one another for more than 10 minutes. Retail establishments shall implement social distancing.
    - ii. Indoor shopping malls are not exempt and shall close.
    - iii. Laundromats.
  - m. TRANSPORTATION
    - i. Airports. Restaurants and bars in airports may remain open as long as they comply with the restrictions contained in Section 6.a above.
    - ii. Automobile service, repair, and sale facilities.
    - iii. Mass transportation systems, including buses, bus stations, bus stops, railroad stations, trains, and similar facilities, regardless of whether such facilities are public or private. Users shall practice social distancing to the greatest extent practicable.
    - iv. Freight rail and other transportation systems that distribute and deliver goods.
    - v. Taxi and private transportation services.
  - n. VOTING
    - i. Except for long-term care and assisted care facilities, any location or facility used as a polling location or in-person absentee voting. If such a location or facility is prohibited

elsewhere in this order, the location or facility may remain open solely for the purpose as serving as a polling location or in-person absentee voting location.

This order will remain in effect for the duration of the public health emergency declared in Governor Evers' Executive Order #72, or until a superseding order is issued.



Andrea Palm  
Secretary-designee  
State of Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services

3/20/2020  
Date