

COVID 19: March 25th, 2020 UPDATE (as of 4:30 pm)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS) and the North Shore Health Department (NSHD), along with other local health departments are responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus, COVID-19. For the most current information on the COVID-19, please visit the <u>CDC's website on COVID-19</u> or <u>www.nshealthdept.org.www.nshealthdept.org.</u>

COVID-19 Cases in Wisconsin: As of March 25th, 2020, Wisconsin has 585 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 290 being in Milwaukee County. The number of cases by county can be found here: <u>https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm.</u>

There is evidence of community spread in Milwaukee, Brown, Columbia, Dane, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Walworth and Waukesha counties. This means that there are people who have tested positive, and it is unknown what their exposures have been. They have had no exposures to a known case and have not traveled to a location where there is community transmission. The most effective measure to prevent further spread is to stay home, especially if you are ill. If you think you may have exposed or are ill and have an underlying health condition or need medical care, contact your healthcare provider.

As a reminder, 911 is for emergency situations. If you have questions about COVID-19 please call 211: You can also text COVID19 to 211-211 or visit https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/coronavirus.



The Safer at Home order is effective as of today, Wednesday March 25th, at 8 am and will remain in effect until 8 am on Friday, April 24th, or until a superseding order is issued. Governor Tony Evers directed the Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Andrea Palm to issue the Safer at Home order, which prohibits all nonessential travel and closes non-essential businesses across Wisconsin. The order is available here and the press release can be found here. A Safer at Home FAQ was released for clarification of the order and is available here. The press release includes a condensed list of businesses that are considered essential, and order includes the full list with exemptions.

Governor Evers stresses the importance of staying home to flatten the curve and minimize the burden on the healthcare system. Many people who have the virus display no signs or symptoms and unknowingly spread it to others. This Safer at Home order is necessary to prevent transmission of the virus by these people who appear healthy.

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 food and supplies, pet food and supplies necessary for staying at home;
- Care for a family member in another household; and
- Care for older adults, minors, dependents, people with disabilities or other vulnerable persons.

The public should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face; and
- Staying home.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you to frequently monitor the <u>DHS</u> <u>website for updates</u>, as well as the <u>NSHD website</u>. Additional information on COVID-19 can be found on the