April 27th, 2020 Update on COVID-19
(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, visit the CDC’s website or our website. Wisconsin DHS publishes statewide COVID-19 data that is updated daily.

We are currently monitoring 26 active cases in the North Shore, and we are also providing active monitoring for high-risk contacts of confirmed cases. We have triaged and processed over 1,040 suspect cases and/or contacts, and performed several large contact investigations, which involves notifying the contacts of their potential risk and educating them on self-quarantine guidelines. We are also managing several active cases in Milwaukee to assist the Milwaukee Health Department.

The NSHD needs cooperation from the public in order to stop the spread of COVID-19 and preserve the health and safety of North Shore residents: Intensive contact tracing is an important public health measure that we are conducting in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the effectiveness of this measure only stretches as far as the information we are provided by the public. When an individual tests positive for COVID-19, we reach out to them and begin collecting information on the people they had contact with during their infectious period. We rely on this information to be accurate and proceed with self-monitoring and/or self-quarantine measures for all the contacts that were identified. If you are notified by us that you may have been exposed, it is crucial to follow the guidelines we provide you on self-quarantine and to be actively communicating with us as requested. Public health needs commitment from the community in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to begin re-opening our society.

Governor Evers and WI DHS released Emergency Order #34: Interim Order to Turn the Dial, which allows additional businesses to operate under certain restrictions: The order will go into effect on Wednesday, April 29th. Order  Press Release  FAQ

The order allows nonessential businesses to do curbside drop-off of goods and animals. This will allow businesses like dog groomers, small engine repair shops, upholstery businesses, and others to safely open. Today’s order also allows outdoor recreational rentals, such as boats, golf carts, kayaks, ATVs, and other similar recreational vehicles. Additionally, automatic or self-service car washes would be able to operate. All of these businesses must operate free of contact with customers by providing payment options online or over the phone, enact proper disinfecting practices, and operations must be able to be performed by one staff member.

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