



# Grant County Health Department

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## **For Immediate Release- Community Spread of COVID-19 identified in Wisconsin**

On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announced that community spread of COVID-19 has occurred in Wisconsin. This means that there are people who have tested positive who have no known exposures to a confirmed case nor did they travel to a location where there is known community spread. As of 2 pm on March 17, 2020 community spread was identified in Milwaukee, Dane, and Kenosha Counties. Updated numbers of positive cases per county and locations where community spread is being seen are updated on the [DHS Outbreaks website](#) daily at 2 p.m.

Governor Evers enacted Emergency Order # 5 on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 prohibiting mass gatherings of 10 or more. This action closes many businesses including but not limited to: auditoriums, theatres, movie theatres, museums, stadiums, arenas, conference rooms, meeting halls, exhibition centers, taverns, health and fitness centers, recreation centers, licensed pools, places of worship and religious gatherings. It also includes restaurants.

Restaurants however, may provide carry out service only but cannot offer seating or allow consumption on site. Restaurants must also require people to be 6 feet apart if coming to pick up food. Restaurants should have patrons phone in orders and give pick up times to help with reducing close contact to others as much as possible.

Social distancing is a strategy to limit the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel (new) coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. This is a conscious effort to reduce contact between people to slow the spread of the virus. Social distancing will help keep you, your family, and our community from increased risk of exposure.

"Even if you are symptom free and not part of an at-risk group, you still need to change your habits at home and work," said Jeff Kindrai, Director/Health Officer "The growing number of confirmed cases in Wisconsin reminds all of us about the importance of social distancing and maintaining good hygiene to prevent the spread of disease."

According to DHS, avoid public places. If you cannot avoid public spaces, stay six feet away from other people. Stay home as much as possible. And think about how you can decrease close contacts and crowded environments while COVID-19 is spreading through our communities. [Learn about precautions for high risk and elderly individuals.](#)

Grant County Health Department is keeping track of this outbreak. We are working with our local, state, and federal partners to deal quickly and effectively in the event people have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been around people who have been infected with the new coronavirus.

The health department wants everyone to know that they should follow simple steps to avoid getting sick, including:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Stay home when sick.
- Practice social distancing.
- Avoid large public gatherings and crowds.
- Be sure to call your health care provider before going in if you have fever and cough.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. For the latest information, visit the [CDC's website](#), the [DHS website](#), or contact the Grant County Health Department at 608 723-6416 or visit [www.co.grant.wi.gov](http://www.co.grant.wi.gov).

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