The State of Wisconsin

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE ORDER #94**

**Relating to Actions Every Wisconsinite Should Take to Protect their Family, Friends, and Neighbors from COVID-19**

**WHEREAS,** the State of Wisconsin is in the middle of a deadly, uncontrolled, and drastically growing spike in cases of COVID-19. Without intervening measures, the State will continue to be the nation's COVID-19 hot spot;

**WHEREAS,** without a vaccine, the only tools to slow the spread of COVID-19 is to physically distance and wear a mask. Without using these simple but vital life-saving tools, Wisconsin will continue to suffer from unnecessary illness and death;

**WHEREAS,** it took seven months for Wisconsin to reach its first 100,000 COVID-19 cases, but only five weeks to reach the second 100,000 cases. At the current rate of growth, we will reach the third 100,000 cases in only twenty days. Wisconsin consistently has more new cases of COVID-19 per day than the entire country of Canada has each day;

**WHEREAS,** as of November 9, 2020, 2,329 Wisconsinites lost their lives due to COVID-19. The University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation projects that, based on current data, approximately 5,000 Wisconsinites could die from COVID-19 by January 1, 2021, if no further actions are taken to slow the spread of COVID-19. By contrast, universal mask wearing could save almost 800 lives by January 1;

**WHEREAS,** as the number of cases continue to increase, so does the number of people who die every day. COVID-19 is already one of the leading causes of death in Wisconsin for 2020. On average, more Wisconsinites are dying *every day* from COVID-19 than the average number of people who die *per month* in car accidents in the state;

**WHEREAS,** the consequences of failing to act will continue to be devastating and deadly. Hospital capacity shortages throughout the state are at record high levels; and

**WHEREAS,** despite these efforts, only the people of Wisconsin can do what it takes to slow the spread of this disease and decrease the number of people suffering and dying every day. Every Wisconsinite must take individual responsibility to wear a face covering, stay home as much as possible, physically distance at least six feet from others, wash hands frequently, and keep your social circle to five people or less.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS,** Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, do hereby recommend:

1. **Staying home.** All individuals should stay home as much as possible and only make trips when necessary, such as to go to work, pick up groceries, or refill prescriptions.

2. **Safety of individuals.** All individuals should take precautions when leaving their home to ensure their safety, the safety of the members of their household, and the safety of the public.

    a. **All individuals.** For individual safety and the safety of the community, all individuals should:

        i. Avoid gatherings of any size between individuals who are not members of the same living unit or household, to the extent possible.

        ii. Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals who are not members of the same living unit or household, to the extent possible.

        iii. Wash hands often.

        iv. Cover coughs.

        v. Frequently clean high touch surfaces and objects.

        vi. Wear a face covering in compliance with Governor Evers' Emergency Order #1, issued September 22, 2020.

        vii. Take available opportunities to provide material and emotional support to fellow Wisconsinites for whom staying home poses financial and psychological hardships.

    b. **Sick or symptomatic individuals.** Individuals who are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 must take additional precautions. COVID-19 symptoms are listed on the Department of Health Services website and may include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, headache, and new loss of taste or smell. Symptomatic individuals should:

        i. Stay home as much as possible.

        ii. Do not go to work or school.

        iii. If possible, wear a face covering if you must go out in public.

        iv. Get tested for COVID-19. Contact your doctor or primary health care clinic, if available, otherwise consult the Department of Health Services website for community testing resources.

        v. If you test positive for COVID-19, follow local health official directives regarding isolation.

    c. **Vulnerable individuals.** Vulnerable individuals include people over 60 years of age, pregnant women, people with compromised or weakened immune systems, and people with serious underlying health conditions including cancer, obesity, diabetes, or chronic lung, kidney or heart disease. To the extent possible, vulnerable individuals should continue to stay home. Members of households with vulnerable individuals should be aware that by returning to work or other public gatherings, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from vulnerable residents.

    d. **Homeless individuals.** Individuals experiencing homelessness are strongly urged to obtain shelter. Governmental and other entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible to the maximum extent practicable and to follow the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on COVID-19 risk mitigation practices.

    e. **Unsafe homes.** Individuals whose homes or residences are unsafe or become unsafe, such as victims of domestic violence, are urged to leave their home and stay at a safe alternative location.

3. **Businesses.** All businesses are strongly encouraged to take steps to protect their staff, customers, and their communities.

a. **Limit staff and customers in offices, facilities, and stores.** To the greatest extent possible, facilitate remote work and other measures that limit the number of individuals present at an office, facility, or store, including:

   i. Offer online or virtual services, including meeting with clients, providing counsel, or other professional services.

   ii. Hold meetings and collaborate online or by phone.

   iii. Alternate work teams or stagger shifts.

b. **Safe business recommendations when remote work is not possible.** All businesses are strongly encouraged to take the following measures to limit exposure to COVID-19 to staff, customers, and the public:

   i. Require masks.

   ii. Limit the number of people on the premises to no more than is strictly necessary to perform the business operation.

   iii. Even if staff are physically present at the business premises, use online or phone meeting to avoid staff congregating in offices, conference rooms, or shared spaces.

   iv. To the greatest extent possible, comply with social distancing of 6 feet between all individuals on the premises, including but not limited to employees, customers, and members of the public. Businesses may have to rearrange office space, workspace, or the flow of business in order to provide for social distancing.

   v. To the extent possible, increase airflow in work areas and conduct in-person meetings outside or in large open spaces.

   vi. Adopt policies to prevent staff from entering the premises or worksite if they display respiratory symptoms or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19. Employers may not penalize staff for isolating or quarantining because of symptoms or exposure to COVID-19.

   vii. Increase standards of facility cleaning and disinfection of all areas. This should include an emphasis on high-touch areas such as door handles, railings, restrooms, buttons, touch screens, office equipment, tools, shared vehicles, payment devices or cash registers, and counters. Businesses must adopt protocols to clean and disinfect the premises in the event of a positive COVID-19 case in the workplace.

   viii. Post signage in languages understood by your employees and customers reminding staff and customers of safe business practices, social distancing requirements, hand hygiene, and cough/sneeze etiquette.

   ix. Where possible, offer curbside pick-up, curbside drop-off, delivery of goods and services.

   x. Where possible, offer online or phone payments, appointments, and reservations.

   xi. Cease door-to-door solicitation.

   xii. Review and adopt measures in the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation guidelines on safe business practices, available here: https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/.

c. Support local health departments' enforcement of isolation and quarantine by offering alternative work arrangements and excusing employees from work in accordance with public health requirements.

4. **Travel.** Individuals are strongly encouraged to remain close to home. Travel to second homes or residences should be avoided if possible. Consistent with federal guidance and to protect our neighboring states, Wisconsinites are discouraged from engaging in unnecessary travel.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this tenth day of November in the year of two thousand twenty.

Tony Evers

TONY EVERS
Governor

By the Governor:

Douglas La Follette

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State