State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services
Tony Evers, Governor
Andrea Palm, Secretary

ORDER PROHIBITING MASS GATHERINGS OF 50 PEOPLE OR MORE

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 a statewide moratorium on mass gatherings of 50 people or more to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Effective at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all public and private mass gatherings are prohibited in the State of Wisconsin.

"Mass gathering" is any planned or spontaneous, public or private event or convening that will bring together or is likely to bring together 50 or more people in a single room or single confined or enclosed space at the same time.

This order may include, but is not limited to mass gatherings at: public or private schools, auditoriums, theaters, movie theaters, museums, stadiums, arenas, conference rooms, meeting halls, exhibition centers, taverns, health and fitness centers, recreation centers, licensed pools, places of worship and religious gatherings.

This order exempts the following:

1. Airports;
2. Public, private, and charter schools only for noninstructional purposes, such as medication pickup, childcare services, providing meals, and when operating as polling places;
3. Childcare locations (including those that operate within a facility that is otherwise prohibited), residential care centers, and group homes;
4. Hotels and motels as long as the restaurant and bar guidelines, listed below in section 15, are followed;
5. Military and National Guard facilities;
6. Law enforcement, jails, and correctional facilities, including any facility operated by the Department of Corrections, and responses to natural disasters;
7. Food pantries and shelter facilities, including day centers, for individuals and families;
8. Detoxification centers;
9. Residential buildings;
10. Shopping malls and other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but are generally not within arm's length of one another for more than 10 minutes;
11. Hospitals, medical facilities, and pharmacies;

12. Long-term care and assisted living facilities, as long the facility follows all current Department of Health Services' Recommendations for Prevention of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities.
13. Libraries;
14. Senior Centers only for the service of meals as long as the requirements listed below are followed:
    a. Preserve social distancing of 6 feet between tables, booths, bar, stools, and ordering counters;
    b. Cease self-service operations of salad bars, beverage stations, and buffets; and
    c. Prohibit consumers from self-dispensing all unpackaged foods.
15. Restaurants and bars as long as the requirements listed below are followed:
    a. Operate at 50 percent of seating capacity or 50 total people, whichever is less;
    b. Preserve social distancing of 6 feet between tables, booths, bar stools, and ordering counters;
    c. Cease self-service operations of salad bars, beverage stations, and buffets; and
    d. Prohibit customers from self-dispensing all unpackaged food and beverages.
16. Retail food establishments (grocery stores, convenience stores, farmer's markets) as long as the requirements listed below are followed:
    a. If seating is offered, must operate at 50 percent of seating capacity or 50 total people, whichever is less;
    b. Preserve social distancing of 6 feet between tables, booths, bar stools, and ordering counters;
    c. Cease self-service operations of salad bars, beverage stations, and buffets; and
    d. Prohibit customers from self-dispensing all unpackaged food.
17. Office spaces and government service centers;
18. Manufacturing, processing, distribution, and production facilities;
19. Public transportation;
20. Utility facilities;
21. Job centers; and
22. Facilities operated by the Wisconsin Legislature and Wisconsin Court System.

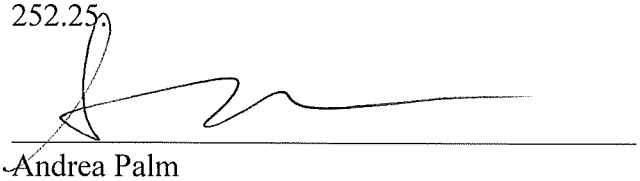
All gatherings that bring together or are likely to bring together 50 or fewer people in a single room or confined or enclosed space at the same time must:

1. Operate at 50 percent of seating capacity,
2. Preserve social distancing of 6 feet between people, and
3. Follow all other public health recommendations issued by the Wisconsin Department of Public Health.

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

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.

Violation or obstruction of this order is punishable by imprisonment, fines, or both. Wis. Stat. § 252.25.



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

3/16/2020
Date