

# COVID-19: SAFER AT HOME

Updated: March 23, 2020

Key Message	Supporting Information
<p><b>We've taken some important steps in fighting COVID-19, but time is of the essence to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites. That's why Governor Evers is issuing a #SaferAtHome order on Tuesday, March 24.</b></p>	<p>We have been working hard to ensure the health and safety of the people of our state as we have responded to COVID-19 in Wisconsin.</p> <p>As we've worked to respond to and prevent the spread of COVID-19, we've have been careful to listen to public health experts and to be mindful of the effects our proactive steps could and will have on our frontline workers and the most vulnerable in our communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need an all-hands-on-deck approach to stopping the spread of COVID-19 in Wisconsin.</li> <li>• It is imperative to slow the growth of the disease and that the state cease all non-essential business statewide.</li> </ul>
<p><b>All Wisconsinites must start taking COVID-19 seriously and we must all step up to do our part to keep each other safe and healthy.</b></p>	<p>We know that it has been difficult has disrupted the lives of people across our state. Issuing a #SaferAtHome order isn't something we thought we'd have to do, and it's not something we take lightly. <b>But here's the bottom line: everyone need to start taking this seriously.</b></p> <p>People across our state are still out and about unnecessarily that are putting our friends, our neighbors, and our communities at risk. Please #StayHome and help us save lives.</p> <p>We're all in this together, and each and every one of us has to do our part to help slow the spread of COVID-19 so we can #FlattenTheCurve so our doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers have the opportunity to do their important work.</p>
<p><b>What does #SaferAtHome mean to me and my family?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a necessary step to slow the spread of the disease and allow us to continue to prepare the healthcare system for this pandemic.</li> <li>• You can still get out and walk the dogs—it's good exercise and it's good for everyone's mental health—but please don't take any other unnecessary trips, and limit your travel</li> </ul>

	<p>to essential needs like going to the doctor, grabbing groceries, or getting medication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If it's essential for you to go outside, please stay 6 feet away from others and shared spaces such as park shelters and visitor centers.</li> <li>• Workers providing essential care or services in our communities will be allowed to continue to travel to and from work. That includes folks like healthcare professionals, grocers, family caregivers, among other people whose work is critical for folks across our state.</li> </ul> <p><b>There will be additional details tomorrow about what this order means for you, but we wanted to give everyone the opportunity to prepare and plan ahead so you can help do your part to keep our friends, neighbors, and communities safe.</b></p>
<p><b>How do I keep myself and my family safe?</b></p>	<p><b>Protect yourself and others by following everyday preventive measures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.</li> <li>• Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.</li> <li>• Where it's possible, we also encourage the use of telehealth to keep visits to clinics and hospitals to a minimum--again for your protection, and for the safety of our healthcare providers. Additionally if you are having symptoms- call your doctor-- before going to the health center.</li> <li>• Stay at least six feet away from other people.</li> <li>• Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles). See <a href="#">CDC's recommendations for household cleaning and disinfection webpage</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>What does flattening the curve mean?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It means that together we must minimize the number of people who get COVID-19 <b>at the same time</b>.</li> <li>• The larger the number of people who have the disease at any one time, the larger the subset of those infected people who will have severe illness and need hospitalization.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• So, if our health care system is going to have the capacity it needs – that means enough beds and ventilators and front line healthcare workers -- to save lives and treat those who require hospitalization, we <b>must</b> minimize the number of Wisconsinites who have COVID-19 at the same time.</li><li>• And the way we do that is to double down on the efforts we’re taking together to stop the spread of the disease.</li><li>• That is good for the people who are sick, our health care providers, and our first responders, as well as all Wisconsinites because it means we are all taking precautions to keep from getting sick and spreading the illness to others.</li></ul>
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Additional info here: [dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19)