



BARRON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



Barron County COVID-19 Guidance for Community Members, Businesses, and Community Organizations

The Wisconsin Supreme Court striking down the Safer at Home Order does not change the fact COVID-19 continues to circulate and pose a threat to the health of our community. Barron County encourages everyone to avoid situations that may put him or her at risk for becoming ill.

Please note while this document provides community guidance; the public health officer may ban public gatherings when deemed necessary to control outbreaks or epidemics (WI Statute 252.03(2)).

Closure of Schools

- In line with the decision of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, all public and private schools in Barron County shall remain closed.

Mass Gatherings.

- Barron County advises residents to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people in their place of work, play or worship.
- All gatherings that bring together people in a single room or confined or enclosed space, whether inside or outside, at the same time should:
 - preserve physical distancing (maintaining 6 feet of distance between people and avoiding all direct physical contact); and,
 - follow all other public health recommendations issued by Barron County Public Health, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the US Centers for Disease Control.
- Transmission risk for COVID-19 is greatest when there is close contact (within 6 feet) for 10 minutes or more; avoid situations that do not allow for appropriate distancing especially those where contact may be prolonged such as sitting in a bar, church services, concerts, movies, meetings, etc.

Travel

- Travel is how the virus spreads from one community to another.
- Individuals are strongly encouraged to remain at their primary residence or home.
- Wisconsinites are encouraged to stay close to home and strongly discouraged from engaging in unnecessary travel.
- Avoid travel to second homes or residences if possible.
- Contact states directly to ensure that your travel complies with their rules and orders.
- Individuals engaged in any travel should comply with Social Distancing Requirements to the extent possible.
- Individuals should keep their number of contacts small while traveling.

Long-term Care Facilities, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Etc.

- Follow recommendations of regulatory agencies including CDC and DHS.
- Take precautions to isolate vulnerable residents.
- Prohibit visitors to Long Term Care Facilities, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living facilities, etc.

Businesses

In the interest of public safety, all Barron County businesses should:

- Have policies in place to monitor their staff for symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to a known case on a regular basis.
- Have policies that support working from home, when feasible.
- Have policies encouraging hand washing, wearing masks, and physical distancing.
- Have policies and supplies to ensure adequate disinfection and cleaning.
- Cooperate with Public Health investigations related to COVID-19 confirmed or suspected cases related to the business operations, including excluding employees based on public health recommendations and assisting public health with identifying and contacting contacts of cases.
- Businesses should follow additional Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) guidelines found at: <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>

Churches/Religious Entities

- Limit gatherings to enable physical distancing of 6 feet between household groups.
- Continue options for virtual services for members.
- Operate under physical distancing protocols.
- Encourage the use of facemasks/coverings.
- Discourage shaking hands.
- Require members and Clergy that are feeling ill to stay home.
- Discontinue use of the common cup during communion. Use single-use disposable cups.
- Limit direct contact with congregation members during communion services. (Do not place Eucharist/wafer/bread or any other sacred consumables directly on tongues of congregation members. Consider the use of a napkin and place in hands.)
- Disinfect frequently used items, equipment, and surfaces before and after each service including doorknobs, pews, railings, hymnals, Bibles.
- Do not reuse programs between services.
- For further information, refer to communication from your personal church/religious entity.

Childcare

- Limit number of children and staff whenever possible.
- Limit interactions between age/care groups.
- Consider moving drop-off and pick-up of children outdoors to minimize the number of people entering the facility.
- Keep a daily log of individuals who enter the facility.
- Maintain physical distancing practices and increase disinfection.

Graduations

- Follow DPI guidelines regarding holding non-essential activities on school grounds.
- Consider multiple ceremonies in smaller groups, ex. ceremony for last names A-G, etc.
- Hold outdoor ceremonies.
- Limit number of attendees to immediate family.
- Enforce physical distancing between groups. Arrange chairs in household groups spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart.
- Discontinue hand shaking as part of the ceremony.
- Encourage face masks/coverings.

Organized Sports

- Public Health recommends discontinuing organized sports during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Contact sports should not occur.
- No contact or minimal contact sports may be continued if participants and spectators can maintain physical distancing.
- Practice in small groups that allow players and coaches to properly distance.
- Cap the number of people at practices and games to a number that ensures maintaining physical distancing.
- Separate spectator seating from player seating.
- Discourage handshakes, high-fives, and other unnecessary contact.
- Provide supplies to ensure adequate disinfection and cleaning.
- Sanitize all equipment throughout the duration of the activity.
- Designate an area for personal equipment such as bat bags, gloves, helmet, etc.
- Encourage participants to bring their own water or hydration from home. Do not use water fountains.
- Clean bathrooms at regular intervals including all common touch points.

Summer School/Camps

- Public Health strongly discourages involvement in these activities at this time.
- Ensure that anyone with any symptoms related to COVID-19 stays home.
- Provide proper cleaning and sanitizing measures for both employees and visitors. Provide hand sanitizer if hand washing is not available.
- Clean the commonly touched surface frequently.
- Screen employees and guests for symptoms before entering the facility.
- Consider moving drop-off and pick-up of children outdoors to minimize the number of people entering the facility.
- Schedule regular hand washing throughout the day as recommended by the CDC.
- Summer school and camps should practice physical distancing and stagger offerings to decrease the number of students who interact.
- Assess for illness regularly. If there is an outbreak, postpone or cancel the following session until the outbreak is resolved.

Large Event Gatherings (Fireworks, Parades, Fairs, Festivals, Carnivals, Concerts, etc.)

- Public Health strongly discourages involvement in these activities at this time.
- Ensure that anyone with any symptoms related to COVID-19 stays home. Offer full refunds for those with symptoms of illness.
- Provide online or contact free ticketing and payments.
- Let staff, customers, and vendors know what you are doing to protect their safety and what they can do to protect themselves and others while at the venue.
- Provide for contact-free screening, security, and entrance procedures.
- Post physical distancing messaging and signage.
- Implement a process that controls exiting to assure physical distancing guidelines. Consider assigned exit times.

Indoor Venues:

- Maintain physical distancing protocols.
- Limit admission/seating to 25% of capacity.

Outdoor Venues:

- Develop plans to comply with physical distancing guidelines.
- Pause or delay opening of the event if you cannot maintain safety measures.
- Provide handwashing stations and/or hand sanitizers for staff, vendors and customers.
- Do not permit customer contact with products; only allow vendors to touch product before sale.
- Change event/venue layout to minimize crowding and provide a safe distance; consider placing vendors on one side or having vendors face outward.
- Continue to visit the DHS and CDC websites for updated information on COVID-19.
- Avoid distributing parade candy or other giveaways.

The following Barron County Departments were involved in developing this guidance:

- County Board Chairman
- Department of Administration
- Sheriff's Department
- Barron County Economic Development Corporation
- Department of Health & Human Services

Components of this guidance were adapted from the "Blueprint for Reopening Walworth County" and the Dunn County Public Health Department Administrative Order 20-01.