

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) FAQ'S

At this time, we are not able to identify the risk level to the general community. Because testing nationwide has been limited, it is possible that the virus is spreading in communities in Wisconsin in greater numbers than known.

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a new coronavirus that has not been previously seen in humans. Most people infected seem to get mild symptoms including fever and cough. However, somewhere between 10%-20% have more severe symptoms which might require hospitalization. If many people in the area got sick all at once, it would quickly overwhelm local hospitals. We need to ensure less people get sick, and the people who do get sick are not all sick at the same time.

WHAT DOES COMMUNITY SPREAD OF COVID-19 MEAN?

Community spread means people have been infected with the virus and are not sure how or where they became infected (i.e. they have not recently traveled to an area with many cases or have not been in close contact with a known case).

WHO IS THE CONFIRMED POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE?

The individual is an adult who traveled domestically to a community with known COVID-19 spread. In early March, the individual attended an event in Prescott and Osceola schools. The individual is not a staff member of the Prescott School District. This is all the information we are sharing at this time to protect the privacy of the individual. Decisions about what is shared are based on the level of risk to the public and what information is needed to identify contacts.

SHOULD I BE TESTED FOR COVID-19 AND HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET TEST RESULTS?

If you develop symptoms, such as fever and cough and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or have recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19, stay home for 7 days after the first day symptoms appear AND 72 hours (3 days) after your last symptom has resolved. If symptoms become severe, call your provider, ER, or 911, depending on severity. Older patients and individuals who have severe underlying medical conditions or are immunocompromised should contact their healthcare provider early, even if their illness is mild. Right now, results are available within 1-2 business days of receipt in the lab. It is important to know that in the future this time frame may need to be extended if volume of testing increases.

WHY ARE SO MANY PLACES CLOSED?

Effective at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the Governor ordered all public and private mass gatherings of 10 or more people were prohibited in the State of Wisconsin. This included many public establishments including bars and restaurants. Restaurants are still allowed to provide drive-thru services and carry out purchases (via telephone or online ordering only; no placing orders in the establishment.) Retail establishments are not currently included in these restrictions but they have been instructed to disinfect frequently and ensure social distancing.

I AM RETURNING FROM A CRUISE, DO I NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE?

Yes, stay home for 14 days even if you have no symptoms. Current recommendation is to NOT go on a cruise at this time.

CAN PETS BE INFECTED WITH COVID-19?

There is no evidence that companion animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19. However, since animals can spread other diseases to people, it's always a good idea to wash your hands after being around animals.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) FAQ'S CONTINUED

WHAT ARE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TRAVEL?

We advise against travel at this time. Travel often includes situations in which social distancing is difficult to maintain. CDC has recommended voluntary home quarantine for those who traveled to countries with widespread, sustained transmission. All travelers returning from domestic and international locations are encouraged to monitor their health and practice social distancing.

I'M CONCERNED ABOUT VOTING IN THE ELECTIONS WITH COVID-19, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

During this time, we advise you to fill out an absentee ballot, which can be requested at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>, or through your town clerk.

MY CHILD/FAMILY IS EXPERIENCING STRESS AND ANXIETY DURING THIS TIME, WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND?

The outbreak of COVID-19 puts stress on individuals, families, and communities. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Coping with stress will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger. While social distancing is required to slow the spread of COVID-19, it is important that you participate in daily activities that will help prevent loneliness. Utilize services that may be at your disposal; your individual insurance, EAP, community organizations, as well as those close to you. Additional Resources can be found at the CDC: shorturl.at/dlvC8 or at NAMI: <https://www.nami.org/find-support/living-with-a-mental-health-condition/managing-stress>

SCHOOL IS CLOSED, SHOULD I LET MY CHILDREN HAVE PLAY DATES WITH FRIENDS OR EXTENDED FAMILY?

Closing schools creates social distancing among children, teachers, and parents thus reducing infection rates. However, school closings are unlikely to be as successful if we continue with play dates, playgrounds and parties. From a virus control strategy, it would be ideal to avoid play dates and other gatherings of children.

WILL CHILD CARE FACILITIES REMAIN OPEN?

Centers have been directed to restrict the size of all child care settings. Centers may not operate with more than 10 staff present at a time and may not operate with more than 50 children present at a time. The restriction is in effect at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2020 to give child care providers and families time to make plans. If this order applies to your facility, please see the direct order recommending prioritization of families with parents who are classified as an essential worker during the COVID-19 outbreak (e.g. healthcare providers, EMS/Law enforcement).

IS IT SAFE FOR ME TO GO TO THE GYM? CAN I GO OUTSIDE FOR A WALK?

Keeping fit remains important. If you are well and have not been asked to self-isolate you may go to the gym. Do not go to the gym if you are unwell. Go to the gym when it's less crowded. When at the gym, you should use wipes provided before you use each piece of equipment. Gyms should ensure that they are cleaning regularly by using appropriate disinfectant. You can go outside for exercise as long as you maintain social distancing. This includes activities like walks, hikes, bike rides, or going to a park.