



# Florence County Health Department

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A.Seibold, RN, MS Health Officer/Director



## ORDER OF FLORENCE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

**DATE OF ORDER: MAY 14, 2020 11:30AM**

**WHEREAS**, on December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus was detected, now named COVID-19, and it has spread throughout the world, including every state in the United States;

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the Governor declared a public health emergency in the State of Wisconsin in response to COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President proclaimed a National Emergency in response to COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, millions of people around the world have tested positive for COVID-19, including more than one million people in the United States, and thousands of people in Wisconsin;

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is present throughout Wisconsin, including in Florence County;

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin State Law provides broad authority and power for local health officials to prevent, control, and suppress COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, Wis. Stat. § 252.03(1) provides that every local health officer “shall promptly take *all* measures necessary to prevent, suppress and control communicable diseases”;

**WHEREAS**, Wis. Stat. § 252.03(2) provides that local health officers “may do what is reasonable and necessary for prevention and suppression of disease”;

**WHEREAS**, Wis. Stat. § 252.03(2) also provides that local health officers “may forbid public gatherings when deemed necessary to control outbreaks or epidemics”;

**WHEREAS**, public health experts advise that a coordinated approach across political boundaries is needed to combat COVID-19, and people and

businesses in Florence County will benefit from a unified, consistent approach;

**WHEREAS**, as required by Wis. Stat. § 252.03(1), the Florence County Health Department investigated the circumstances of COVID-19 appearing locally and made a full report to Florence County Board Chairman and the Department of Health Services;

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services published the DHS Model Guidelines for Safer at Home, which provides social distancing guidelines informed by Wisconsin public health experts and is consistent with recommendations by the President and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

**WHEREAS**, based on the specific circumstances in Florence County and my investigation of COVID-19 in Florence County, I have determined that following the Badger Bounce Back plan is necessary to prevent, suppress, and control COVID-19 in Florence County.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Annette Seibold, public health officer for Florence County, by the authority vested in me by the Laws of the State, including but not limited to Section 252.03 (1) (2) of the Wisconsin Statutes, order the following:

I hereby adopt the provisions contained within the Badger Bounce Back plan and Florence County is currently in Phase 1, a copy of which is attached hereto and fully incorporated herein, except for the following sectors which will be allowed at this time as well (normally associated with Phase 2):

1. Hair salons, Barber shops, nail salons, day spas, Tattoo parlors, tanning facilities- open with best practices
2. Allow Gatherings, including religious, 50 people maximum
3. Bars and Restaurants- open with recommended physical distancing and active monitoring of staff
4. K-12 schools-as determined by state guidance
5. Post-secondary institutions-as determined by state guidance

Phase 1 guidance and best practice guidance are found on the Wisconsin's Economic Development Corporation's website:

<https://wedc.org/essentialbusiness/>

First and foremost, active monitoring of real-time data-based metrics is critical. If metrics are not being met, mitigation strategies may be needed on a regional or local level as determined by the local health officer, or an even smaller scale (municipality or business) to address an identified hotspot. Phase movement and mitigation will be based on local metrics and/or Local Health Officer discretion. Seven key indicators as identified on pages 9 and 10 of: **A United Front: Considerations for Re-Opening Multi-County or Region Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic Plan** are essential in monitoring

real time situations. In addition, corresponding strategies for “tightening” or “loosening” when needed. These strategies are found on page 11 of aforementioned plan.

This Order is enforceable by any local law enforcement official, including the county sheriff.

If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

This Order shall become effective at 11:30 a.m. on May 14, 2020. This Order shall remain in effect until a superseding order is issued.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Annette Seibold  
Public Health Officer

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