

**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Gov. Evers Delivers Democratic Weekly Radio Address on COVID-19 Public Health Emergency  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 10:10:38 AM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**For Immediate Release:** March 19, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Delivers Democratic Weekly Radio Address on COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

[Audio file of radio address.](#)

The following is Gov. Tony Evers' radio address on the COVID-19 public health emergency.

*Hi everyone, Governor Tony Evers here.*

*A lot's happened in the past few days to respond to the COVID-19 public health crisis.*

*I am proud, but frankly, not surprised by the efforts of Wisconsinites to rise to this challenge.*

*Earlier this week, I called for a statewide moratorium on mass gatherings of 10 or more people to slow the spread of COVID-19, including closing bars and limiting restaurants to take-out or delivery only.*

*There are exceptions to that order, including critical infrastructure such as transportation systems, child care, and hospitals, to name a few.*

*We are seeing community spread of COVID-19 in Wisconsin. This means that there are people who have been tested positive who have no exposures to a known case nor did they travel to a location where there is known community spread.*

*Social distancing will help keep you, your family, and our community from increased risk of exposure.*

*What we're saying here folks is simply this – stay at home if you can.*

*We need our healthcare workers, direct care workers, first responders, and service workers to stay healthy so they can continue working to keep us all safe.*

*This includes if you are an individual who is asymptomatic or symptoms that do not require medical care. Generally, stay home and remain out of contact with others until you recover.*

*With limited testing materials available nationwide, testing should be reserved for those who are severely ill and require hospitalization or are considered high-risk.*

*Your assistance and patience will be critical to protecting you, your family and friends, and our communities.*

*Be kind to one another and support one another. We're in this together, Wisconsin. Thank you.*

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Gov. Evers Delivers Democratic Weekly Radio Address on Safer at Home Order  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:10:26 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**For Immediate Release:** March 26, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Delivers Democratic Weekly Radio Address on Safer at Home Order**

[Audio file of radio address.](#)

The following is Gov. Tony Evers' radio address on the Safer at Home Order to address the COVID-19 public health crisis.

*Issuing a Safer at Home order isn't something I thought we'd have to do, it's not something I wanted to do, and it's not something I take lightly.*

*We're all in this together and we need to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and flatten the curve to ensure our doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers have the opportunity to do their important work.*

*You can still go out and take a walk, go for a bike ride, or walk the dogs.*

*It's good exercise and its good for everybody's mental health, but please don't take any other unnecessary trips and limit your travel to essential needs like going to the doctor, grabbing groceries, or getting medication.*

*Workers providing essential care or services in our communities will be allowed to continue to travel to and from work.*

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Announces Additional Shipment of Personal Protective Equipment from the Strategic National Stockpile  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 7:27:20 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 31, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Announces Additional Shipment of Personal Protective Equipment from the Strategic National Stockpile**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today announced that Wisconsin has received its second phase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and is in the process of distribution. The second phase of supplies from the SNS are being delivered to healthcare workers, emergency medical services, and medical facilities including hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and clinics across Wisconsin.

“We are doing everything we can to get more protective equipment as fast as we can to our healthcare workers and those on the frontlines to protect them from COVID-19,” said Gov. Evers. “We want to make sure our healthcare workers can continue doing their good work and taking care of our neighbors in communities across our state, and we are working to get these supplies to the folks who need them the most as quickly as possible.”

The State Emergency Operations Center and Department of Health Services continue working to supply medical facilities with supplies requested from the Strategic National Stockpile. The second phase includes approximately 51,880 N95 respirators, 130,840 face/surgical masks, 23,400 face shields, 20,226 surgical gowns, 96 coveralls, and 79,000 pairs of gloves. Today’s shipment comes as Governor Evers announced Wisconsin’s first delivery of SNS supplies which included approximately 52,800 N95 respirators, 130,000 face/surgical masks, 24,768 face shields, 20,286 surgical gowns, 96 coveralls, and 61,750 pairs of gloves. In total Wisconsin has received approximately 104,680 N95 respirators, 260,840 face/surgical masks, 48,186 face shields, 40,512 surgical gowns, 192 coveralls, and 140,750 pairs of gloves from the SNS.

The SNS supply shipments do not include supplies the governor has requested from FEMA for non-medical personnel or supplies being aggressively pursued through procurement, donations, or the governor’s buyback program.

As always, the public should follow simple steps to avoid getting sick, including:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing.
- Covering coughs and sneezes.
- Avoiding touching your face.
- Staying home as much as possible, but especially when sick.
- Avoiding gatherings of 10 or more people.
- Practicing social distancing.

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Announces Federal Approval for Disaster Loans for Small Businesses  
**Date:** Friday, March 20, 2020 10:01:27 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 20, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Announces Federal Approval of Disaster Loans for Small Businesses**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers announced today that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved Wisconsin's request for small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to access low-interest federal disaster loans.

“This is very good news for Wisconsin businesses that have already suffered financial losses due to the COVID-19 outbreak,” he said. “With the SBA loans now available to our state, small businesses and their employees have a little more certainty over their financial futures. This is another step in providing much-needed assistance to Wisconsin's small businesses.”

With unprecedented demand for the loans nationwide, processing of the applications may be delayed.

“We are encouraging business owners to reach out to SBA's partners [mentioned below] and to SBA's offices with their questions to help the loan application process go as smoothly as possible,” said Wisconsin's SBA district director, Eric Ness.

Under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, businesses and non-profits may qualify for up to \$2 million in loans to cover losses resulting from the pandemic. The interest rate on the loans is 3.75% for for-profit businesses and 2.75% for nonprofits. Participants may be able to extend payments for up to 30 years.

Businesses and non-profits can begin their loan applications at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster). The [Wisconsin Small Business Development \(SBDC\) Network](#) and its partners are helping small businesses apply for federal disaster loans to mitigate the substantial economic injury as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Wisconsin SBDC, a resource partner of the SBA, has created a web page to help business owners understand the qualifications and application process. That web page is available [here](#). Consultants [across the network's 13 locations](#) are working remotely via phone, email and virtual tools to assist clients.

The [Wisconsin SBA](#) and its other [SBA resource partners](#) – including [WWBIC](#), [Western Wisconsin Women's Business Center](#), [SCORE](#) and [Veterans Business Outreach Center](#) – are also working to assist their clients.

Additional business resources can be found on Wisconsin SBDC's website <https://wisconsinsbdc.org/covid-19/> and Institute for Business & Entrepreneurship's website, [www.business.wisconsin.edu/covid-19](http://www.business.wisconsin.edu/covid-19). The UW System is sharing updates regularly at [www.wisconsin.edu/coronavirus](http://www.wisconsin.edu/coronavirus).

As part of the application process, businesses will be asked to supply the following information:

- Tax Information Authorization ([IRS Form 4506T](#)) for the applicant, principals and affiliates.
- Complete copies of the most recent Federal Income Tax Return.
- Schedule of Liabilities ([SBA Form 2202](#)).
- Personal Financial Statement ([SBA Form 413](#)).
- Profit and loss statements
- Monthly sales figures ([SBA Form 1368](#))

For more information, consult the FAQ sheet from SBA [here](#), visit the SBA website at [sba.gov](http://sba.gov), or visit the SBDC website at [www.wisconsinsbdc.org/disasterloans](http://www.wisconsinsbdc.org/disasterloans).

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**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Announces Federal Approval for Disaster Loans for Small Businesses  
**Date:** Friday, March 20, 2020 10:01:27 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 20, 2020

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Announces Four Remaining Grand Princess Cruise Ship Passengers Return to Wisconsin  
**Date:** Saturday, March 21, 2020 1:53:35 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 21, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Announces Four Remaining Grand Princess Cruise Ship Passengers Return to Wisconsin**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers announced today that late last night four Wisconsin citizens who were aboard the Grand Princess cruise ship that docked in the Port of Oakland, California last week arrived in Wisconsin. Wisconsin National Guard personnel were waiting to transport them back to their homes for self-quarantine.

The cruise ship had confirmed cases of COVID-19 on board, so each passenger will follow Center for Disease Control and Wisconsin Department of Health Services protocols and continue to self-quarantine for the requisite 14-day period after landing at the National Guard's Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center in Camp Douglas, Wisconsin.

There were originally 38 Wisconsin citizens aboard the ship, all of whom are asymptomatic and have not tested positive for COVID-19. A first group of 29 returned to Wisconsin late March 15 after a weeks-long ordeal aboard the ship, which had more than 3,500 on board and 21 total cases of COVID-19. Two of the original 38 Wisconsin passengers chose to remain in quarantine in Texas under the custody of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HSS), citing personal reasons. The remaining three passengers remain in California and will return back to Wisconsin at a later date. Two of the passengers remain in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HSS), custody in California, and one passenger chose to remain in California citing personal reasons.

There are no more pending transports of Grand Princess cruise ship passengers for the Wisconsin National Guard.

The four residents that returned today received a [welcome-home packet](#), which included a letter from the governor, information about their 14 days of quarantine, and how to contact their local health department or Wisconsin DHS if they had questions.

Nearly 30 Soldiers and Airmen from the Wisconsin National Guard mobilized to state active duty after Gov. Tony Evers declared a public health emergency last Thursday, and they were standing by to transport the residents home after they landed at Volk Field. From there, Guard members transported them home in state vans. The same troops were on hand today to transport the seven returning citizens home. The Soldiers and Airmen involved will self-monitor for 14 days upon the conclusion of their mission.

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Announces New Order Relating to Department of Public Instruction  
**Date:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 4:42:39 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 22, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Announces New Order Relating to Department of Public Instruction**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today directed the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to suspend administrative rules relating to hours of instruction, student teacher assessments, and general flexibility during the COVID-19 public health emergency. A copy of the order is [here](#).

“As we continue to face challenges surrounding COVID-19 in Wisconsin, it’s critically important that school district administrators, educators, students, and parents have the peace of mind knowing we’re working to address concerns about hours of instruction, making sure our student teachers will graduate on time, and ensuring the department has flexibility as we move forward to do what’s best for our kids, educators, and schools across our state,” said Gov. Evers.

Gov. Evers’ order relating to the DPI:

- Ensures the DPI will be able to streamline the waiver process for hours of instruction for public schools;
- Suspends the PI 34 requirements to allow students in teacher preparation programs to graduate on time this spring;
- Provide the DPI with flexibility in light of upcoming due dates.

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Announces New Public-Private Partnership to Increase COVID-19 Laboratory Testing Capacity  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2020 11:04:19 AM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 30, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Announces New Public-Private Partnership to Increase COVID-19 Laboratory Testing Capacity**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today announced a new public-private partnership among Wisconsin industry leaders to increase Wisconsin's laboratory testing capacity for COVID-19. Prior to today's announcement, the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene and the Milwaukee Public Health Lab were leading the Wisconsin Clinical Lab Network labs to bring additional COVID-19 testing online.

The new partnership now includes laboratory support from Exact Sciences, Marshfield Clinic Health System, Promega, and UW Health. These organizations, along with the Wisconsin Clinical Lab Network, will now share knowledge, resources, and technology to bolster Wisconsin's testing capacity.

“The Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene and the Milwaukee Public Health Lab should be commended for the tremendous lift they have done over the past few weeks to rapidly bring these tests online. And I want to especially extend my gratitude to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene for going above and beyond to expand testing capacity within the Wisconsin Clinical Lab Network, and ensure Wisconsin does not have a backlog of COVID-19 tests,” said Gov. Evers. “I also want to thank the Wisconsin Diagnostic Lab at Froedtert, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Gunderson Health Systems, and Aurora Health Care for their early work and continued leadership. But even with these combined efforts, unfortunately, we know all too well that as this disease spreads there will be significant pressure on our labs to keep pace with testing.”

The Wisconsin Clinical Lab Network labs have been averaging completion of 1,500-2,000 COVID-19 tests per day. The expanded capacity from the state's new public-private partnership is expected to double that capacity initially and continue to expand as additional platforms and supplies become available.

“Wisconsin is extremely fortunate to have these industry leaders in our own backyard,” said Gov. Evers. “They are exhibiting the right kind of leadership that all Wisconsinites deserve: stepping up with innovation, cutting down superficial barriers, and doing all they can to help keep Wisconsin communities healthy.”

“The people of Exact Sciences are honored to partner with Governor Evers, public health officials, health care providers, Marshfield Clinic, UW Health, Epic, and Promega to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in our state,” said Kevin Conroy, chairman and CEO, Exact Sciences. “Our incredible teams are working around the clock to bring up the ability to support our state's health care workers, first responders and patients affected by COVID-19. We are repurposing some of our equipment and reconfiguring areas of our laboratory space to help scale up Wisconsin's COVID-19 testing capabilities. We look forward to applying the lessons we've learned in the ongoing fight against cancer to help bring an end to this public health crisis.”

“Marshfield Clinic Health System believes collaboration is at the core of overcoming the challenges COVID-19 is presenting our communities. Not only does this spirit of collaboration exist between state government and our partners in healthcare and private business, it’s what has driven the System’s clinical and research labs to clear the way for widespread and rapid COVID-19 testing,” said Dr. Susan Turney, CEO Marshfield Clinic Health System. “Our ability to now test for COVID-19, and turn results around within a day or less, is a monumental step in terms of identifying the virus, more precisely allocating our resources to patients that need them most and further understanding the scope of the pandemic on a local level.”

“Promega is providing the reagents needed for COVID-19 tests as part of a collective initiative to accelerate testing in Wisconsin. Labs in the state that are running these tests have expressed great confidence in Promega’s ability to manufacture the vital reagents required for the necessary analysis. As needed, Promega scientists and engineers will help fine-tune methods on robots and instrumentation, allowing for high-throughput testing. Promega began scaling up reagent manufacturing in January to address global needs, and has maintained accelerated production since then. Operations teams continue to work on ways to expand production to further meet unprecedented demand,” said Promega CEO, Bill Linton. “Everyone at Promega feels a deep commitment to humanity’s battle against COVID-19, especially given our highly specialized capacity to contribute to this fight. We are honored to join in this historic collaboration between local businesses, labs and state agencies working together to significantly scale up testing capabilities for the people of Wisconsin.”

“UW Health’s hospitals and clinics are working side by side with state and local government and our private sector partners to increase testing capacity, address the needs for space and equipment and encourage social distancing,” said UW Health CEO, Alan Kaplan. “These coordinated efforts are critical to mounting an effective response to COVID-19. We couldn’t be more proud of the physicians, nurses and staff at UW Health that are on the front lines as we combat this virus.”

Residents who are seeking a COVID-19 test are still required to receive an order from a doctor. These labs are not testing sites.

“While I am excited to announce these critical partnerships that will increase our capacity to fight this outbreak in Wisconsin, there are still very real challenges to obtaining supplies of critical laboratory materials,” said Gov. Evers. “The rapid spread of COVID-19 in other parts of the country and world are making these important supplies scarce, but with our new partners, and through the state’s ongoing efforts to obtain these materials from the federal government and through the private market, we are working day and night to reinforce our sources of these supplies.”

All individuals are encouraged to do the following:

- Stay at home as much as possible. Cancel events and avoid groups, gatherings, play dates, and nonessential appointments;
- Stay at least 6 feet away from other people, when possible;
- Practice good hand hygiene. 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;
- Avoid touching face, eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and cough and sneeze into your elbow;
- Continue to visit [Department Health Services COVID-19 informational website](#). This comprehensive website has resources, updates, and answers to commonly asked questions about COVID-19.

More information regarding the statewide COVID-19 response is also available [here](#).

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Announces Second Package of Comprehensive Legislative Proposals Providing COVID-19 Relief and Support  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 2:12:13 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 1, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Announces Second Package of Comprehensive Legislative Proposals Providing COVID-19 Relief and Support**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today announced a second package of comprehensive legislative proposals that would provide critical investments in health services, support for essential workers, and assistance for Wisconsin families and businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The governor’s announcement today comes just days after Gov. Evers announced a first piece of legislation, which included additional funding and flexibility for public health professionals and healthcare professionals, a repeal of the one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance, expanding and improving access to telehealth services, among many other proposals.

“What the federal government has passed is a great start, but I am concerned it does not go nearly far enough. We need to take aggressive legislative steps here in Wisconsin for not only the health and safety of our families and workers, but for our state’s economy,” said Gov. Evers. “I’m calling on the Legislature to convene without any further delay to take up these proposals supporting our healthcare providers, essential workers, small businesses, and families across our state who need our help during this difficult time. These are unprecedented times, but we must remember that we are all in this together. We need to do everything we can to support those who need it.”

As additional needs and issues arise from agencies and stakeholders, the governor is committed to working with legislators to find bipartisan solutions. The governor’s office welcomes the opportunity to hear and consider any proposals that legislators have to address the impacts of COVID-19 on the health and well-being of Wisconsin residents, businesses and communities.

This package, among many other proposals, includes:

- Increasing funding for Medicaid providers via supplemental payments and rate increases to support the healthcare system’s response to the public health emergency;
- Establishing a fund to reduce providers’ uncompensated care costs targeting reimbursement for treatment-related costs for uninsured individuals;
- Establishing a COVID-19 reinsurance program to reduce health insurance premiums;
- Providing grant funding to provide food assistance and meal delivery;
- Prohibiting utility cooperatives from disconnecting customers and prohibiting land-lord directed disconnections from rental units during a public health emergency;
- Ensuring workers receive back payment for any lost unemployment insurance benefits as a result of the

- delay in suspending the one-week waiting period;
- Providing supplemental payments to child care providers, if that provider needed to shut down during the public health emergency;
  - Allowing households to apply for heating assistance under the low-income energy assistance program anytime during the 2020 calendar year;
  - Increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income families;
  - Providing municipalities the flexibility to implement multiple installments of three or more payments for 2020 property taxes;
  - Waiving interest and penalties on delinquent property taxes included in the 2019 payable 2020 tax roll, on and after April 1, 2020;
  - Creating a fund through the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Association to provide 6 months of support for prevention of single-family foreclosures and providing refinancing opportunities to current borrowers; and
  - Providing grant funding for small businesses and workers through the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

The governor's first COVID-19-related legislation was introduced last week as LRB-5920 and is available [here](#) for review. A brief explanation of LRB-5920 is available [here](#). A brief explanation of the governor's second round of proposed legislation announced today is available [here](#).

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Announces State-Operated Voluntary Isolation Facilities and Guidance to Aid Local Communities in Opening Their Own  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:39:09 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 31, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Announces State-Operated Voluntary Isolation Facilities and Guidance to Aid Local Communities in Opening Their Own**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today announced the State of Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is opening two state-run voluntary isolation facilities in Madison and Milwaukee and is providing guidance to local communities throughout Wisconsin. The two sites are set to open April 1, 2020 are at Lowell Center in Madison and a Super 8 hotel in Milwaukee.

“As the state’s response to COVID-19 continues, we want to make sure those who need a safe place to stay have one available to them,” Gov. Evers said. “These voluntary self-isolation sites help respond to the pandemic in two ways. First, they will provide a valuable resource for those who have mild symptoms of COVID-19, leaving valuable hospital space available for others who need it, and they also provide a safe place for people to stay so they don’t spread COVID-19 to others.”

These facilities are for symptomatic individuals suspected to be infected with COVID-19 or who have a confirmed case of COVID-19. Individuals will not be permitted to register at the facility unless referred by a medical provider or public health official. Individuals register and stay at the isolation facility on a voluntary basis. The expected length of stay will be about 14 days, or 72 hours after symptoms dissipate. At any time, either the individual or the facility may terminate the individual’s presence at the site. Those staying at the facility will have wellness checks by phone every four hours during the day and if needed at night.

Additionally, the SEOC also issued guidance for communities seeking to open their own voluntary self-isolation centers. This guidance will aid local communities with the following:

- How do we select, set up, and staff an isolation site?
- How does a person get referred to and checked into the isolation site?
- What happens while occupants are at the isolation site? Including details about medical monitoring/wellness check calls and other on-site services.
- When do occupants leave the site? Including details about discharge and involuntary check out from the isolation site.

“Our community partners across the state know what will work best for the folks living in their area,” Gov. Evers said. “This guidance should aid them with any local effort that is undertaken to help those who are facing COVID-19 and doing their best to comply with my ‘safer at home’ order.”

**Note to media:** As partners in this response, we ask you to not film at these facilities. We do not want to discourage anyone from going into isolation that needs it. Staff onsite will not be able to talk to you and you will not be allowed in. We ask you to respect the privacy of those who need these facilities. All media inquiries should be directed to [dmawempio@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dmawempio@wisconsin.gov).

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Calls for Special Session on Spring Election  
**Date:** Friday, April 3, 2020 1:12:02 PM

Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 3, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## Gov. Evers Calls for Special Session on Spring Election

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today signed Executive Order #73 calling the Legislature to meet in Special Session on Sat., April 4, 2020 at 4 p.m. to take up changes to the upcoming spring election. Gov. Evers is urging the Legislature to take up legislation allowing an all-mail election, to send a ballot to every registered voter who has not already requested one by May 19, and to extend the time for those ballots to be received to May 26.

“Your efforts to maintain social distancing, the sacrifices you have made when it has come to your jobs, your schooling, and your day-to-day activities are what we need to flatten the curve to protect the people of our state. It’s also what we need to do to support our healthcare workers who are making heroic efforts to test, treat, and prevent this virus. At the same time, we also have to be patient with ourselves and each other because we’re all doing this for the very first time, ♦ Gov. Evers said [in a video](#) to Wisconsinites.

“As we’ve faced these challenges over the past few weeks, I have also asked the people of our state to do their part to help. Well here’s the bottom line folks: if, as elected officials, we’re going to expect the people of our state to make sacrifices to keep all of us safe, then, by golly, we better be willing do our part, too. So, today I announced that I am calling the Legislature into a special session to do its part—just as all of us are—to help keep our neighbors, our families, and our communities safe. ♦

The governor previously proposed legislation that had several provisions aimed at making voting easier and more accessible during the public health emergency. A brief summary of that legislation is available [here](#) for review. Additionally, Gov. Evers called for the Legislature to act on this issue in a video, available [here](#).

Executive Order #73 is available [here](#).

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Delivers Weekly Democratic Radio Address on Wisconsin Values during COVID-19  
**Date:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 10:21:35 AM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 2, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Delivers Weekly Democratic Radio Address on Wisconsin Values during COVID-19**

[Audio file of radio address.](#)

The following is Gov. Tony Evers' radio address on Wisconsin Values during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

*Hi, Wisconsin. Governor Tony Evers here.*

*As many of you know, on March 24th I issued our "Safer at Home" order.*

*The bottom line is that COVID-19 has been and continues to be a rapidly evolving situation, and if we're going to prevent and manage the further spread and ensure that our healthcare workers and systems aren't overwhelmed, then that means we have to be willing to act to keep people safe.*

*And that's always going to be the bottom line for me: keeping people safe.*

*I recognize that a lot of folks have had questions about the order.*

*First, you are allowed to go outside, go for a bike ride, or take the dog for a walk, but please remember to stay six feet away from others and stay close to home.*

*Secondly, you do not need special permission to be out and about. We trust you. Stay home when you can, but if you need to make an essential trip like going to the doctor or buying groceries you are able to do that.*

*Next, we ask that you limit your interactions to the same people, not different small groups.*

*Unfortunately, that means no potlucks, no meeting up with friends, no play dates, and no dinner parties.*

*Finally, some businesses will continue to operate like hospitals, clinics, grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, banks, among many others — so no need to run to the grocery store and hoard food.*

*At the end of the day, folks, we are all in this together and during the most difficult times, we are called upon to remember our Wisconsin values of kindness, compassion, empathy and respect.*

*So, to that end, I'm going to continue to ask for your help.*

*Do your part to help keep our friends, our healthcare workers, and our communities safe.*

*Stay at home because it is safer at home. Thank you.*

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DHS to Limit Gatherings to Less Than 10 to Slow Spread of COVID-19  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 1:47:47 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 17, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Directs DHS to Limit Gatherings to Less Than 10 to Slow Spread of COVID-19**

*Measures also being taken to manage testing capacity in Wisconsin*

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today directed Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Andrea Palm to issue an agency order prohibiting mass gatherings of 10 people or more to slow the spread of COVID-19. The order makes exceptions for transportation, educational institutions, child care, hotels, military, law enforcement, food pantries, hospitals, long-term care facilities, restaurants and bars can only offer take-out or delivery, grocery stores and convenience stores, utility facilities, job centers, and courts. See full order and list of exemptions [here](#). Additionally, schools will be closed for the duration of the public health emergency.

“Our top priority at this time is to keep Wisconsinites safe and healthy by reducing the spread of COVID-19, especially for those who are considered high-risk. With limited tests available nationwide and continued community spread, we have to take every precaution to protect ourselves, our families, and our neighbors,” said Gov. Evers. “I know what this means for our small business owners and the struggles they and their workers will face in the coming weeks, but we are committed to working with our federal partners, state officials, and stakeholders to ensure we are doing everything we can to assist during these uncertain times.”

### **Community Spread**

We are seeing community spread of COVID-19 in Wisconsin. This means that there are people who have tested positive who have no exposures to a known case nor did they travel to a location where there is known community spread. Today, we have cases in Milwaukee, Dane and Kenosha counties indicating that there is community spread happening in Wisconsin. Social distancing will help keep you, your family, and our community from increased risk of exposure.

### **DHS and Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene to move to tiered COVID-19 testing to manage capacity**

Despite The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) significantly increasing their capacity for COVID-19 testing, the number of testing specimens being received far exceeds their daily capacity. In order to conserve supplies for testing, WSLH and DHS are now prioritizing two tiers of cases for testing:

Tier One (Individuals who):

- are critically ill and receiving ICU level care with unexplained viral pneumonia or respiratory failure
- are hospitalized (non-ICU) with fever or signs and symptoms of lower respiratory tract illness (cough, shortness of breath) and either known exposure to a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient or travel to an area with sustained community transmission

Tier Two (Individuals who):

- are hospitalized (non-ICU) with unexplained fever and signs/symptoms of lower respiratory tract illness
- are health care workers with unexplained fever and signs/symptoms of a lower-respiratory illness, regardless of hospitalization

Test requests that do not meet these criteria will be sent to other labs in the state and country for testing, resulting in longer wait times.

Information for healthcare providers on the testing tiers is available at [dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm). Patients without symptoms and patients with mild upper respiratory symptoms who are not health care workers should not be tested in order to ensure that there is capacity to test ill people.

People should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face;
- Staying home when sick.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DHS to Prohibit Mass Gatherings of 50 People or More  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 1:54:37 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 16, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Directs DHS to Prohibit Mass Gatherings of 50 People or More**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today directed Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Andrea Palm to issue an agency order prohibiting mass gatherings of 50 people or more statewide to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. A copy of Secretary-designee Palm's order can be found [here](#).

This order is effective on Tues., March 17, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. and will remain in effect for the duration of the public health emergency declared by [Executive Order #72](#) or until a superseding order is issued.

This order includes any gatherings at locations such as public or private schools, theaters, museums, stadiums, conference rooms, meeting halls, taverns, health and fitness centers, and places of worship. Critical infrastructure and services such as grocery stores, food pantries, childcare centers, pharmacies, and hospitals are exempt from this order. Restaurants and bars are required to operate at less than 50 percent capacity or have fewer than 50 people, whichever is less.

“While it was a difficult decision knowing the impacts on communities, families, workers, and businesses across our state, I believe limiting gatherings to less than 50 people is another critical step we can take in slowing and reducing the spread of COVID-19,” said Gov. Evers. “Keeping folks safe and healthy has to be our top priority during this crisis.”

On Thurs., March 12, 2020, the governor signed an executive order that directs DHS to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and respond to incidences of COVID-19. It allows DHS to purchase, store, or distribute appropriate medications, regardless of insurance or other health coverage, as needed to respond to the emergency. It also authorizes state funds to support local health departments with costs related to isolation and quarantine, as well as the use of the Wisconsin National Guard.

Decisions about the implementation of other community measures will be made by state and local officials based on CDC and DHS guidance, as well as the scope of the outbreak.

People should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face;
- Staying home when sick.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional

information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DHS to Issue Safer at Home Order  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:32:12 AM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 24, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## Gov. Evers Directs DHS to Issue Safer at Home Order

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today directed Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Andrea Palm to issue a Safer at Home order that prohibits all nonessential travel, with some exceptions as clarified and defined in the order. The order is available [here](#).

The order is effective at 8 am on Weds., March 25, 2020 and will remain in effect until 8 am Fri., April 24, 2020, or until a superseding order is issued.

“I know the COVID-19 outbreak has been difficult and has disrupted the lives of people across our state. Issuing a Safer at Home order isn’t something I thought we’d have to do and it’s not something I take lightly, but here’s the bottom line: folks need to start taking this seriously,” said Gov. Evers. “Each and every one of us has to do our part to help slow the spread of COVID-19 so we can flatten the curve to ensure our doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers have the opportunity to do their important work. Let’s all do our part and work together.”

Individuals do not need special permission to leave their homes, but they must comply with this order as to when it is permissible to leave home. Similarly, if a business is an Essential Business or Operation as defined in this order, it does not need documentation or certification to continue its work that is done in compliance with this order.

Under this order, Wisconsin residents are able to:

- Perform tasks essential to maintain health and safety, such as obtaining medicine or seeing a doctor;
- Get necessary services or supplies for themselves or their family or household members, such as getting food and supplies, pet food and supplies necessary for staying at home;
- Care for a family member in another household; and
- Care for older adults, minors, dependents, people with disabilities or other vulnerable persons.

Businesses allowed to operate under the Safer at Home order include, but are not limited to:

- Health care operations, including home health workers;
- Critical infrastructure;
- Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise vulnerable individuals;
- Fresh and non-perishable food retailers, including convenience stores, grocery stores, farmers’ markets, and food banks;
- Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food and goods directly to residences;
- Pharmacies, health care supply stores and health care facilities;

- Child care facilities, with some limitations;
- Gas stations and auto repair facilities;
- Banks;
- Laundry businesses, dry cleaners and services necessary for maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operation of a residence, including garbage collection;
- Hardware stores, plumbers, and electricians;
- Educational institutions, for the purposes of facilitating distance learning;
- Roles required for any business to maintain minimum basic operations, which includes security, and payroll; and
- Law and safety, and essential government functions will continue under the recommended action.

The order contains detailed information regarding the exemptions provided to certain businesses. If a business is unsure about whether or not they are exempted from this order, please contact the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation [here](#).

The public should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face; and
- Staying home.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Issues Order to Expedite Expansion, Enhance Efficiency of Healthcare Workforce  
**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2020 4:13:29 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Madison 27, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Issues Order to Expedite Expansion, Enhance Efficiency of Healthcare Workforce**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Andres Palm today exercised their authority under Article V, Section 4 of the Wisconsin Constitution and Sections 323.12(4) and 252.02(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes to simplify healthcare license renewals during the COVID-19 public health emergency and to encourage recently retired professionals with expired licenses to re-enter practice. This order is available [here](#). It provides an avenue for licensed out-of-state practitioners to practice in Wisconsin without first requiring an in-state credential. It also eliminates time limits for temporary licenses.

The order also has provisions designed to enable nursing students close to graduation to be a part of the state's COVID-19 response by adjusting some clinical education requirements. It suspends practice restrictions for advanced practice nurses, enabling them to more efficiently and effectively respond during the COVID-19 crisis. Finally, the order provides flexibility to physician assistants in order to meet the current unpredictable changes in emergency needs.

The order is effective immediately and will remain in effect through the duration of the public health emergency.

“Our healthcare professionals are on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis, and it is critical that we maximize the size of our work force and eliminate unnecessary barriers so we can effectively meet the demand for care,” said Gov. Evers. “Remember, while our health systems respond to COVID-19, they also must continue to care for patients with other conditions and issues, such as cancer or accidental injury, that require ongoing or immediate attention. This action will ensure that more Wisconsinites get the care they need, when they need it.”

The order eliminates some late renewal fees for individuals whose licenses have lapsed and provides the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) with flexibility to eliminate other fees when needed. This is designed to simplify the licensing process for retirees or others who left their professions in good standing for other reasons by easing or eliminating certain credentialing renewal requirements, such as the need to earn specified numbers of continuing education units, so that returning providers can focus on direct patient care and not activities that take them away from the front lines or the bedside.

“We have heard from many providers who are eager to return to practice and help respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Other providers want the flexibility to go where the need is greatest and respond as fully and efficiently as possible,” said DSPS Secretary-designee Dawn Crim. “This order will better position

Wisconsin's healthcare workforce to deal with this public health emergency. ♦

This order suspending rules is issued along with clarifying companion emergency orders. Collectively they apply to a number of different healthcare providers, including but not limited to nurses, physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, physical therapists, chiropractors, dentists, psychologists, counselors, and radiographers. Each profession is governed by different rules, so please see order for details.

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Launches Wisconsin's COVID-19 PPE Program  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:46:52 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Madison 26, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## Gov. Evers Launches Wisconsin's COVID-19 PPE Program

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today launched an initiative designed to get more personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gowns, gloves and masks, to those working on the frontlines of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It is absolutely imperative that our healthcare workers and first responders have the equipment they need to stay safe and healthy as they care for our communities. As we face a global shortage of PPE, and are competing with other states to acquire limited resources, I am calling on companies, schools, and other organizations that may have unused protective equipment sitting in their facilities to make those materials available to those who need it most,” Gov. Evers said. “The state appreciates any donations, but we are also prepared to pay a fair market value for large quantities of this equipment that are offered.”

Wisconsinites can now go to <https://covid19supplies.wi.gov/Donations> to either donate or sell large quantities of PPE to the State of Wisconsin. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) will then work with distribute the PPE to communities that need it the most.

First responders and other non-medical organizations should communicate their PPE needs to their county or tribal emergency management office, which will then forward those requests to the SEOC for fulfillment. Medical facilities, including hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and clinics, should continue using the established process for requesting supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).

“We are amazed at the outpouring of offers from businesses and other organizations who have already told us they want to help fill the critical need for this equipment across the state,” said Dr. Darrell L. Williams, Wisconsin Emergency Management administrator. “Our staff has already been working to review those offers of support, and our hope is this site will help to streamline that process going forward.”

“Wisconsin, like many other states, has a shortage of personal protective equipment due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said DHS Secretary-designee Andrea Palm. “We are doing everything we can to get more protective equipment so our health care workers, first responders on the frontlines can protect themselves from COVID-19, and in turn, help keep all Wisconsinites safer.”

The state is currently seeking the following items:

- Surgical Gowns (S, L, XL, and XXL)
- Face/Surgical Masks (adult, pediatric)
- Gloves (Nitrile, Vinyl, or Butyl)
- N-95 Particulate Respirators
- Isolation Gowns
- Face Shields
- Tyvek Coveralls
- Thermometers
- Foot Coverings

If organizations or businesses have quantities of fewer than 50 of any of these items, they are encouraged to donate them to local health organizations instead of going through the buyback website.

The SEOC and Department of Health Services continue working to supply medical facilities with supplies requested from the SNS. So far, the state has received about 104,680 N95 respirators, 260,840 face/surgical masks, 48,168 face shields, 40,512 surgical gowns, 192 coveralls, and 70,375 pairs of gloves from the SNS. The state has also requested assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with purchasing supplies for use by first responders.

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Orders Scaling Down of all Child Care Settings  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:38:47 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 18, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## Gov. Evers Orders Scaling Down of all Child Care Settings

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today directed Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Andrea Palm 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. This order can be found [here](#).

The restriction in size goes into effect at 8 a.m. on Thurs., March 19, 2020 to give child care providers and families time to make plans for care moving forward. The closure will remain in effect for the duration of the public health emergency declared by [Executive Order #72](#).

“Child care is an essential service for many of the folks working on the front lines to provide healthcare and vital services to our communities during the COVID-19 outbreak,” said Gov. Evers. “This is another step forward to ensure that service continues, while protecting our child care providers who are going above and beyond their regular duties to support our families, communities, and state.”

Providers are being asked to prioritize families of healthcare and essential service providers, using good faith to determine who those families are. Those using care who can keep their children at home are being asked to do so. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) and DHS have updated guidance for providers to implement this emergency order, available [here](#).

“I know many Wisconsinites are looking for ways to help during this crisis,” Gov. Evers continued. “If you are able, keeping your kids at home is one of the actions you can take to have the most impact. I also want to recognize the child care providers around the state who are stepping up to support our communities-- we appreciate your service during this challenging time.”

Additionally, the Administration is working with healthcare providers, child care providers, and the National Guard to explore options to serve healthcare workers through on-site care. It is important that these facilities are able to provide the same level of care and health precautions for staff and children. More information on this effort will be available in the coming days.

People should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face; and
- Staying home when sick.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Requests Presidential Disaster Declaration in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 12:02:39 PM

---

Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 31, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Requests Presidential Disaster Declaration in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic**

MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers today sent a letter to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requesting that the president issue a major disaster declaration for the entire state of Wisconsin, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The request covers all 72 counties and the state’s federally recognized tribes.

“The response to this virus has required a tremendous response from the state and all of its communities that far exceeds the resources currently available to us,” Gov. Evers said. “By seeking this declaration, we are hopeful the state will be able to access critical programs that are needed to deal with the pandemic now, and with the recovery that will be taking place down the road.”

Having determined that Wisconsin met all of the criteria required to receive a major disaster declaration, Gov. Evers in his letter requested that the federal government provide the following programs to support the state’s response: Public Assistance, Direct Assistance, Hazard Mitigation (statewide), and certain Individual Assistance programs; Crisis Counseling, Community Disaster Loans and the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Program.

“The response to this outbreak has caused multiple deaths, exhausted many of our resources, resulted in record unemployment claims, and taken a toll on the community infrastructure that is in place to protect the public,” Gov. Evers said. “We need federal assistance to help rebuild those critical safety nets and ensure they remain strong.”

“As we deal with this horrific pandemic, this declaration will assist with acquiring the needed resources for the people of Wisconsin,” said, Dr. Darrell L. Williams, Wisconsin Emergency Management administrator.

Gov. Evers declared a public health emergency on March 12 in response to the outbreak, which directed the Department of Health Services to take all necessary and appropriate actions to help combat the spread of the virus. On March 14, the governor directed Wisconsin Emergency Management to activate the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to provide additional coordination in support of the state’s response.

A copy of the governor’s letter is available [here](#).

###

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers' Statement on Judge Conley's Order Regarding Upcoming April 7 Election  
**Date:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 5:07:35 PM

---

Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 2, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers' Statement on Judge Conley's Order Regarding Upcoming April 7 Election**

MADISON —Gov. Tony Evers issued the following statement regarding U.S. District Judge William Conley's decision to ease requirements for absentee voting in the upcoming April 7 election. The order extends the deadline to request an absentee ballot to tomorrow, April 3, allows ballots to be counted that are received after the election until April 13, and eases the requirement for a witness signature.

“In the absence of the Legislature doing its part to ensure a fair and safe election, I appreciate that the court chose to implement some of the common-sense solutions that I’ve been advocating for. It’s great news that Wisconsinites will have more time to request and submit a ballot and that clerks will have more time to count ballots. I continue to encourage every Wisconsinite to request their absentee ballot and vote safely from home.”

Previously, the governor proposed legislation that had several provisions aimed at making voting easier and more accessible during the public health emergency. A brief summary of that legislation is available [here](#) for review. Additionally, Gov. Evers called for the Legislature to act on this issue in a video, available [here](#).

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers' Statement on Upcoming April 7 Election  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 7:10:15 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 1, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## Gov. Evers' Statement on Upcoming April 7 Election

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers issued the following statement regarding the upcoming April 7 election.

“We have three branches of government to ensure a system of checks and balances, and questions about our elections typically rely on all three playing a role.

“If I could have changed the election on my own I would have but I can’t without violating state law. I’ve asked the legislature to do its part to ensure a fair and safe election and I hope we can get some clarity as soon as possible. The bottom line is that we have to keep folks safe and we have to make sure everyone who wants to vote has the opportunity to make their voice heard.”

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers' Statement on Special Session  
**Date:** Saturday, April 4, 2020 5:47:17 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 4, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## Gov. Evers' Statement on Special Session

MADISON – On April 3, Gov. Tony Evers signed [Executive Order #73](#) calling the Legislature to meet in a special session to take up necessary changes to the upcoming spring election. The special session was scheduled for 4 p.m., today, Sat., April 4, 2020, and the Legislature failed to meet and pass legislation to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites. In response, Gov. Evers issued the statement below.

“Republicans in the Legislature are playing politics with public safety and ignoring the urgency of this public health crisis. It’s wrong. No one should have to choose between their health and their right to vote. Being a good leader means listening to the experts, being willing to adjust our course based on the science, and making the tough decisions necessary to protect the people of our state.

“This, however, is an easy decision. It's time for every Republican legislator to do their jobs and take a vote on this commonsense proposal to extend the election date so everyone can vote safely from home. I urge every Wisconsinite to contact their legislators and demand a vote.”

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Statement on Supreme Court of Wisconsin Ruling Allowing In-Person Voting Tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, April 6, 2020 7:20:11 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 6, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

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“There are few things we hold more sacred and that are more American than the right to vote. People have bled, fought, and died for the right to vote in this country. But tomorrow in Wisconsin, thousands will wake up and have to choose between exercising their right to vote and staying healthy and safe. In this time of historic crisis, it is a shame that two branches of government in this state chose to pass the buck instead of taking responsibility for the health and safety of the people we were elected to serve.”

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 6, 2020

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 6, 2020

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Submits Request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan Assistance for Small Wisconsin Businesses  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 11:35:08 AM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 18, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Submits Request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan Assistance for Small Wisconsin Businesses**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today submitted a request to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance for small Wisconsin businesses and private, non-profit organizations to help alleviate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. Gov. Evers request to SBA can be found [here](#).

“Social distancing and self-isolation are critical steps in reducing and preventing the spread of this virus in our communities, but it comes at an economic cost to our local businesses,” said Gov. Evers. “The loan assistance from SBA will help alleviate some of the financial burden and stress on our small businesses during this public health crisis. We will continue to work with our federal partners, state officials, and stakeholders to ensure we are improving public safety and health while protecting our state economy.”

Surveys of businesses over the past several days, as well as inquiries into our Joint Incident Command, illustrate that the COVID-19 outbreak has had a significant impact on a variety of businesses within Wisconsin, most notably hospitality, event hosting and support, and small retail businesses dependent upon daily traffic. A survey of these affected businesses was conducted to determine the economic impact of their losses for the disaster period as compared to the same period in the preceding year. Based upon these surveys, five Wisconsin businesses were named: Kobussen Buses Ltd., Country Kitchen Café, Common Man Tap & Table, Kugels Cheese Mart, and Earth Rider Brewery.

On Thurs., March 12, 2020, the governor signed [Executive Order #72](#) that directs DHS to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and respond to incidences of COVID-19. It allows DHS to purchase, store, or distribute appropriate medications, regardless of insurance or other health coverage, as needed to respond to the emergency. It also authorizes state funds to support local health departments with costs related to isolation and quarantine, as well as the use of the Wisconsin National Guard.

Decisions about the implementation of other community measures will be made by state and local officials based on CDC and DHS guidance, as well as the scope of the outbreak.

People should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face;
- Staying home when sick.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS](#)

[website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Suspends Evictions and Foreclosures During Public Health Emergency  
**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2020 1:10:05 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Madison 27, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Suspends Evictions and Foreclosures During Public Health Emergency**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today directed Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Andrea Palm to temporarily order the suspension of evictions and foreclosures amid the COVID-19 public health emergency. The order can be found [here](#).

The order prohibits landlords from evicting tenants for any reason unless failure to proceed with the eviction will result in an imminent threat of serious physical harm to another person and mortgagees from commencing civil action to foreclose on real estate for 60 days. Wisconsinites who are able to continue to meet their financial obligations are urged to do so. This order does not in any way relieve a person's obligation to pay their rent or mortgages.

“During this time individuals, families, and small businesses may see disruptions in paychecks due to losing hours, tips, business, or employment. This is another step we can take to prioritize the health and safety of Wisconsinites during this public health emergency,” said Gov. Evers. “Evictions and foreclosures pose a direct and serious threat to the health and well-being of Wisconsinites, ensuring they are able to keep a roof over their heads and those in social services can prioritize assisting those who currently do not have shelter is critically important.”

People should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
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- Staying home.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Suspends In-Person Voting, Calls Legislature into Special Session on April 7 Election  
**Date:** Monday, April 6, 2020 12:47:32 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 6, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Suspends In-Person Voting, Calls Legislature into Special Session on April 7 Election**

MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers, in the absence of legislative action, today signed Executive Order #74, suspending in-person voting for the April 7 spring election, moving in-person voting to June 9, 2020. The order also directs the Legislature to meet in special session on Tues., April 7, 2020 to address the election date. If the Legislature does not enact legislation to change the new election date, in-person voting will occur on June 9, 2020.

“Today, I signed an executive order suspending in-person voting for tomorrow’s election. Frankly, there’s no good answer to this problem—I wish it were easy. I have been asking everyone to do their part to help keep our families, our neighbors, and our communities safe, and I had hoped that the Legislature would do its part—just as the rest of us are—to help keep people healthy and safe,” said Gov. Evers. “But as municipalities are consolidating polling locations, and absent legislative or court action, I cannot in good conscience stand by and do nothing. The bottom line is that I have an obligation to keep people safe, and that’s why I signed this executive order today.”

All ballots already cast in the 2020 Spring election will remain valid and will be tallied in conjunction with the new in-person voting date.

Executive Order #74 is available [here](#).

The governor previously [signed Executive Order #73](#) calling the Legislature to meet in a special session to send a ballot to every registered voter, allow an all-mail election, and extend the time for those ballots to be received and counted. The Legislature did not take up these changes in special session. Gov. Evers also proposed legislation that had several provisions aimed at making voting easier and more accessible during the public health emergency. A brief summary of that legislation is available [here](#) for review. Additionally, Gov. Evers called for the Legislature to act on this issue in a video, available [here](#).

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Suspends Rules to Help Keep Youth Safe and Vital Services Functioning  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:34:31 AM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 31, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Suspends Rules to Help Keep Youth Safe and Vital Services Functioning**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today issued Emergency Order #18, suspending several administrative rules for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) to help reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 while maintaining critical services the agency provides. The order can be found [here](#).

“While good practice under regular circumstances, some requirements of the state’s programs actually increase the likelihood of exposure through additional interaction between people,” said Gov. Evers. “We have to continue to find ways to serve Wisconsinites, regardless of their circumstances, while keeping them safe and healthy.”

Emergency Order #18 gives the flexibility needed to provide the safest possible care for children in out-of-home care by allowing local agencies to make decisions about when and if services are needed for an individual child. Numerous agency rules require local agencies to take certain actions during a set window of time. Due to the heightened risk of exposure caused by additional face-to-face interactions, this flexibility allows local agencies to make decisions based on the best interest of the child.

The order also waives an in-person training deadline for new employees in W-2 agencies. Extending the deadline will ensure new W-2 staff can stay on the job, helping Wisconsinites in need of services.

“The governor has shown incredible leadership throughout our public health emergency,” said DCF Secretary Emilie Amundson. “With Governor Evers’ help, DCF continues to provide services, support, and programming that helps children, families, and communities stay safe and healthy.”

Gov. Evers previously waived rules for DCF programs under Emergency Order #3. That order waived various requirements governing out of home care, child care, and child support programs.

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Suspends Utility Rules and Allows for Additional Consumer Protections  
**Date:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 4:47:23 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Madison 22, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## Gov. Evers Suspends Utility Rules and Allows for Additional Consumer Protections

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today issued Emergency Order #11, suspending several utility-related administrative rules, paving the way for the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) to temporarily order further consumer protections amid the COVID-19 public health emergency. The order can be found [here](#).

“It is critically important to give people flexibility during this emergency, when paychecks might be disrupted, to keep the lights and heat on and water flowing,” said Gov. Evers. “We’re making sure that folks don’t have to make the critical choice between keeping their utilities on and paying for other essentials.”

Immediately following the governor’s emergency order, PSC Chairperson Rebecca Cameron Valcq directed regulated utilities in the state to take the following actions for the duration of the emergency:

1. Stop utility disconnection for nonpayment for all customers, including commercial, industrial, and farm accounts. Previously this applied to residential accounts only;
2. Cease assessing late fees to customer accounts;
3. Halt the practice of requiring deposits from customers for reconnection of service;
4. Allow deferred payment agreements for all customers who request them;
5. Remove any administrative barriers for customers establishing or reestablishing utility service; and
6. Authorize water utilities to provide budget billing arrangements to customers. Electric and natural gas utilities are allowed to do this under current rules.

“I want to thank the governor for his prompt action on this and our utility providers for their continued efforts to keep our homes and businesses supplied with light, heat, and water,” said Chairperson Valcq. “This is a difficult time for many. We’re asking that those who are able to pay their utility bills, please continue to do so. For those who can’t, today’s order allows them to remain connected.”

Previously, the PSC directed utilities to cease disconnecting residential service for nonpayment until the state public health emergency had been lifted. Additionally, utilities were required to make reasonable attempts to reconnect service to an occupied dwelling that had been disconnected.

###

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Urges the Public to Help Keep Our Healthcare Workers Safe  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:12:44 PM

---

Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 19, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## Gov. Evers Urges the Public to Help Keep Our Healthcare Workers Safe

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today reminded Wisconsinites to follow the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), urging the public to stay home as much as they are able.

“Social distancing not only protects you and your family from increased exposure to COVID-19, but it protects our healthcare professionals, direct care providers, and others who are on the frontlines serving our communities during this pandemic,” said Gov. Evers. “We need these workers who are providing essential services to stay healthy so they can continue to care for and serve our state. While I know the COVID-19 outbreak has caused many disruptions to your daily life, your help will go a long way in protecting the health and safety of our state.”

With limited testing materials available nationwide, Gov. Evers encourages those who are asymptomatic or experiencing mild symptoms to stay home and self-isolate. This will help conserve testing materials for those who are severely ill and require hospitalization or are considered high-risk individuals. This also helps reduce exposure to the virus for our healthcare professionals.

On Thurs., March 12, 2020, the governor signed [Executive Order #72](#) that directs DHS to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and respond to incidences of COVID-19. It allows DHS to purchase, store, or distribute appropriate medications, regardless of insurance or other health coverage, as needed to respond to the emergency. It also authorizes state funds to support local health departments with costs related to isolation and quarantine, as well as the use of the Wisconsin National Guard.

Decisions about the implementation of other community measures will be made by state and local officials based on CDC and DHS guidance, as well as the scope of the outbreak.

People should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face; and
- Staying home.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

###

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Waives Work Search and Modifies Availability Requirements for Unemployment Benefits  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 7:54:17 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 18, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Waives Work Search and Modifies Availability Requirements for Unemployment Benefits**

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today issued Emergency Order #7 waiving work search requirements and modifying the availability requirements for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits for workers impacted by COVID-19. The order is available [here](#).

Emergency Order #7 waives the requirement that UI claimants conduct at least four weekly work search actions during the COVID-19 emergency. This section of the order is retroactively effective to March 12, 2020. This order also ensures that claimants who are otherwise eligible but out of work due to COVID-19 are considered available for work and therefore eligible for benefits.

The order goes into effect immediately and will remain in effect for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

“This emergency order follows the federal guidance related to administering unemployment insurance benefit claims during the pandemic period and allows the program to support our workers who have been affected,” said Gov. Evers. “Many Wisconsin workers are facing financial burden and stress due to the COVID-19 outbreak and this order will help them access some additional support. My Administration plans to continue to work with state legislators and our federal partners on initiatives to help impacted workers.”

On Thurs., March 12, 2020, the governor signed [Executive Order #72](#) that directs DHS to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and respond to incidences of COVID-19. It allows DHS to purchase, store, or distribute appropriate medications, regardless of insurance or other health coverage, as needed to respond to the emergency. It also authorizes state funds to support local health departments with costs related to isolation and quarantine, as well as the use of the Wisconsin National Guard.

Decisions about the implementation of other community measures will be made by state and local officials based on CDC and DHS guidance, as well as the scope of the outbreak.

People should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face;
- Staying home when sick.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS](#)

[website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers Works to Increase Wisconsin Medical Provider Access to Critical Supplies  
**Date:** Friday, March 20, 2020 3:31:53 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 20, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Works to Increase Wisconsin Medical Provider Access to Critical Supplies**

MADISON — As hospitals and clinics work to combat the spread of COVID-19 in Wisconsin, Gov. Tony Evers is taking steps to help improve health care workers' access to personal protective equipment (PPE) from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). That includes asking the federal government to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure a steady stream of facemasks, gloves, gowns and other protective items from the SNS is being delivered to states.

“We are committed to making sure these critical supplies are getting to hospitals and clinics as quickly as possible,” said Gov. Evers. “Demand is high though, and what we have received so far from the federal government falls far short of what is needed in the state to protect those who may come into direct contact with the virus. I’m calling on the federal government to take whatever actions are within its power to make sure these supplies are being directed to where they are needed most.”

As of today, the state has received only a small allocation of PPE from the federal government. It’s being distributed to direct healthcare providers in areas with known community spread, to include nursing homes, emergency medical services and hospitals. DHS is using bed count information and advice from its medical advisory group to determine where PPE is being sent.

“We know this shipment won’t get to every organization that needs it,” Gov. Evers said. “DHS is working with the state emergency command structure, including the National Guard and Wisconsin Emergency Management, to identify additional sources and obtain more from the stockpile.”

The state also continues to work with partners in the public and private sectors to identify additional sources of PPE that can be made available to medical facilities and other first responders.

“My hope is that we can quickly identify consistent supply lines to make sure this equipment is being delivered to those in the state who need it most,” Gov. Evers said. “We will continue to make this a priority, due to the importance of protecting those who are at risk of being exposed to this virus.”

DHS is working with local and tribal health officers, health care providers, and other partners to adjust the response to COVID-19 as needed. As always, the public should follow simple steps to avoid getting sick, including:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing.
- Covering coughs and sneezes.
- Avoiding touching your face.
- Staying home when able.

- Avoiding gatherings of 10 or more people.
- Practicing social distancing.

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin National Guard Work to Bring Grand Princess Cruise Ship Passengers Safely Back to Wisconsin  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 10:00:11 AM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 16, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin National Guard Work to Bring Grand Princess Cruise Ship Passengers Safely Back to Wisconsin**

MADISON — Twenty-nine Wisconsin residents who were aboard the Grand Princess cruise ship that docked at the Port of Oakland in California last week were safely transported back to Wisconsin late Sunday night, where Soldiers and Airmen from the Wisconsin National Guard were waiting to transport them back to their homes for self-quarantine.

This morning at 4:18 am the 29 Wisconsin passengers from the Grand Princess cruise ship were safely returned to their homes. Two passengers chose to remain in quarantine in Texas under the custody of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), citing personal reasons. State officials continue to work with HHS to return home the seven Wisconsin passengers who remain in HHS custody in California. The National Guard troops were given hotel rooms at their final destinations.

Gov. Tony Evers announced in a March 12 press conference that Wisconsin was working to bring the cruise ship passengers home after a weeks-long ordeal due to confirmed cases of COVID-19 Coronavirus aboard the ship. As of today, none of the returning Wisconsin citizens have tested positive for COVID-19 and all are asymptomatic, but the residents will follow Center for Disease Control and Wisconsin Department of Health Services protocols and continue to self-quarantine for the requisite 14-day period.

“We’re glad to finally have our folks back home in Wisconsin,” Gov. Evers said. “These individuals have gone through a harrowing experience full of uncertainty and fear over the past several weeks. But as I’ve said repeatedly, here in Wisconsin, we take care of one another. I am incredibly grateful to Wisconsin’s Department of Health Services, the Wisconsin National Guard, and our entire state government for the hard work they’ve put in to ensure we bring our people home safely and ensure the safety of our communities.”

More than 3,500 people were on board the Grand Princess which had 21 total cases of COVID-19.

The return, although delayed in arriving, went smoothly. Adjutant General Paul Knapp spoke and welcomed our residents home on behalf of Gov. Evers. Residents received a welcome-home packet, which included a letter from the governor, information about their 14 days of quarantine, and how to contact their local health department or Wisconsin DHS if they had questions.

Nearly 30 Soldiers and Airmen from the Wisconsin National Guard mobilized to state active duty after the governor declared a public health emergency Thursday, and they were standing by to transport the residents

home after they landed at the National Guard's Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center in Camp Douglas, Wisconsin. From there, Guard members transported them home in state vans. The Soldiers and Airmen involved will self-monitor for 14 days upon the conclusion of their mission.

###

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Gov. Evers, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin National Guard Work to Bring Grand Princess Cruise Ship Passengers Safely Back to Wisconsin  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 10:00:11 AM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 16, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin National Guard Work to Bring Grand Princess Cruise Ship Passengers Safely Back to Wisconsin**

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Wisconsin Granted Federal Disaster Declaration Due to COVID-19 Pandemic  
**Date:** Saturday, April 4, 2020 3:25:41 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 4, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Wisconsin Granted Federal Disaster Declaration Due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers today announced that Wisconsin has been granted a major disaster declaration for the entire state of Wisconsin, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The declaration provides access to Public Assistance programs for all 72 Wisconsin counties and the state’s federally recognized tribes.

“I am grateful for the swift action of the federal government in reviewing our request for a major disaster declaration,” Gov. Evers said. “The assistance granted today will help ensure Wisconsin can gain access to critical assistance as we continue our work to respond to this pandemic.”

Gov. Evers earlier this week requested that the federal government provide the following programs to support the state’s response: Public Assistance, Direct Assistance, Hazard Mitigation (statewide), and certain Individual Assistance programs; Crisis Counseling, Community Disaster Loans and the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Program.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) notified the state today that it is granting the request for Public Assistance to help provide reimbursement for emergency protective measures taken by state and local governments in their response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The declaration also authorizes direct Federal Assistance which means when the State and local governments lack the capability to perform or to contract for eligible emergency work and/or debris removal, the State may request that the work be accomplished by a federal agency. The governor’s additional requests for assistance remain under review.

“The state will work with communities across Wisconsin to ensure federal disaster assistance is received as quickly as possible,” said Dr. Darrell L. Williams, Wisconsin Emergency Management administrator. “We are thankful that our partners at FEMA helped to get a quick response to this request, so we can ensure critical assistance programs are available to communities that are in need.”

The major disaster declaration covers assistance to public entities, and will cover eligible projects submitted by counties, cities, townships, tribes, and certain private, not-for-profit organizations. Local governments in the declared counties are now eligible for federal assistance and should contact county emergency management directors for further information. Under the program, FEMA provides 75 percent of eligible costs, while the remaining 25 percent is the responsibility of state and local agencies.

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**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] Press Release: Wisconsin Requests FEMA Assistance in Obtaining Protective Medical Supplies  
**Date:** Saturday, March 21, 2020 6:46:09 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Madison 21, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## Wisconsin Requests FEMA Assistance in Obtaining Protective Medical Supplies

MADISON — At the direction of Gov. Tony Evers, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) is asking the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the state in obtaining protective medical supplies that can be used by law enforcement officers and firefighters who are at risk of direct exposure to COVID-19 while performing their jobs.

“We are asking FEMA to help us purchase valuable medical supplies that will be used to protect our first responders as they do the important work of keeping Wisconsin safe,” said Gov. Evers. “It is our hope that the federal government can identify a source for these supplies as quickly as possible.”

FEMA is being asked to help Wisconsin obtain 50,000 non-surgical masks, 10,000 face shields, 11,000 coveralls, 3,000 N95 face masks, and 35,000 pairs of protective gloves through its procurement process.

“We recognize that this equipment is in high demand, and we thank our first responders for their patience as we work to identify additional sources of personal protective equipment,” said Dr. Darrell L. Williams, WEM administrator. “This initial request is intended to help meet the immediate needs of agencies across the state that continue to perform their daily duties, knowing they are at risk of being exposed to the virus.”

The request comes in addition to the state’s ongoing efforts to obtain personal protective equipment (PPE) from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). So far, the state has received about 52,000 N95 face masks, 130,000 surgical masks, 25,000 face shields, 20,000 surgical gowns, 100 coveralls, and 36,000 pairs of gloves from the SNS. Those materials are being distributed to direct healthcare providers in areas with known community spread. The governor is calling on federal officials to help identify additional resources.

The Department of Health Services is working with local and tribal health officers, health care providers, and other partners to adjust the response to COVID-19 as needed. As always, the public should follow simple steps to avoid getting sick, including:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing.
- Covering coughs and sneezes.
- Avoiding touching your face.
- Staying home as much as possible, but especially when sick.
- Avoiding gatherings of 10 or more people.
- Practicing social distancing.

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**From:** [rebecca.mesdjian@wisconsin.gov](mailto:rebecca.mesdjian@wisconsin.gov)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** DNR Environmental Loans Section News  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 2:11:10 PM

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This message was generated by the Environmental Loans Section of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Please click on the following link to view a new E-Bulletin related to the Clean Water Fund Program and/or the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/LoanNews.html>.

Inside this issue: COVID-19 Update from the DNR Environmental Loans Program; and Emergency Change to Market Rate.

To find additional information regarding the Clean Water Fund Program and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, use the following link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/EIF.html>

**From:** [Gov Evers Press](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** Press Release: Gov. Evers Confirms Two COVID-19 Deaths in Wisconsin  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 7:00:55 PM

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Office of Governor Tony Evers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 19, 2020

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov) or 608-219-7443

## **Gov. Evers Confirms Two COVID-19 Deaths in Wisconsin**

MADISON — Together with state health officials at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Gov. Tony Evers today confirmed two deaths in Wisconsin due to COVID-19. The first death was a male in his 50s from Fond Du Lac County. The second death was a male in his 90s from Ozaukee County.

“Our hearts go out to all the loved ones affected by these deaths, and to all those suffering from this virus,” said Gov. Evers. “We are committed to fighting the spread of COVID-19 in Wisconsin and I want to recognize the hard work and bravery of our nurses, doctors, state health officials, and all those on the front lines in the effort to save lives. Together we will get through this historic health challenge.”

Working with the Centers for Disease Control and Wisconsin public health officials, Gov. Evers declared a state of emergency on March 12, 2020. This action allowed DHS to use all available resources to respond to and contain the outbreak.

“We are very saddened by the death of these individuals and my heart goes out to the family, community, health providers and public health officials,” said DHS Secretary-designee Andrea Palm. “We are working nonstop with medical staff across the state to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and help protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites.”

Testing for COVID-19 is being done in Wisconsin through both the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and at the City of Milwaukee Health Department, as well as private labs throughout the state.

Right now, Wisconsin is prioritizing testing for COVID-19 because of a shortage of ingredients needed to run the tests. It is important that we reserve our testing capacity for individuals who are critically ill and healthcare workers on the front lines. This will help us keep our healthcare workforce safe and healthy and help stop the spread of the virus. Many states across the country are grappling with this same problem. We have been working with our partners in the federal government, in the private sector, and our public universities to try to get the ingredients needed to run these tests.

DHS is working with our local and tribal health officers, health care providers, and other partners to adjust the response to COVID-19 as needed. As always, the public should follow simple steps to avoid getting sick, including:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing.
- Covering coughs and sneezes.
- Avoiding touching your face.
- Staying home when able.

- Avoiding gatherings of 10 or more people
- Practicing social distancing.

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**From:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**To:** [Roth, Colin T.](#)  
**Cc:** [Lindsay Mather](#); [Lindsey Belongea](#)  
**Subject:** Re: City v. Bostelmann Filings  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7:50:30 PM

---

Hi all,

Following up to see where things stand. During our discussions with Ryan yesterday, our understanding was the governors office was looking at options to address our concerns about the election as well.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 25, 2020, at 3:33 PM, Roth, Colin T. <[rothct@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:rothct@doj.state.wi.us)> wrote:

Thanks, Lindsay. We'll get the waivers filled out and returned, maybe not today but by sometime tomorrow.

Best,

**Colin T. Roth**

Assistant Attorney General  
Wisconsin Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 7857  
Madison, WI 53707-7857  
Direct: (608) 264-6219  
Fax: (608) 267-2223

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**From:** Lindsay Mather <[lindsayma@greenbaywi.gov](mailto:lindsayma@greenbaywi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 3:05 PM  
**To:** Roth, Colin T. <[rothct@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:rothct@doj.state.wi.us)>  
**Cc:** Vanessa Chavez <[VanessaCh@greenbaywi.gov](mailto:VanessaCh@greenbaywi.gov)>; Lindsey Belongea <[lindseybe@greenbaywi.gov](mailto:lindseybe@greenbaywi.gov)>  
**Subject:** City v. Bostelmann Filings

Good afternoon Attorney Roth,

Attached for your convenience are the Summonses for your clients as well as the Verified Complaint. I have also attached requests to waive service of a summons for both Governor Evers and Secretary Palm.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Mather  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Green Bay  
(920)448-3085  
[lindsayma@greenbaywi.gov](mailto:lindsayma@greenbaywi.gov)

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**From:** [Roth, Colin T.](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Cc:** [Lindsay Mather](#); [Lindsey Belongea](#)  
**Subject:** RE: City v. Bostelmann Filings  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:06:09 PM

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Vanessa –

We will get you the waivers tomorrow. I am not aware of any forthcoming action that would obviate the need for tomorrow's hearing, but I will check into that and get back to you.

Thanks,  
Colin

---

**From:** Vanessa Chavez <[VanessaCh@greenbaywi.gov](mailto:VanessaCh@greenbaywi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7:51 PM  
**To:** Roth, Colin T. <[rothct@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:rothct@doj.state.wi.us)>  
**Cc:** Lindsay Mather <[lindsayma@greenbaywi.gov](mailto:lindsayma@greenbaywi.gov)>; Lindsey Belongea <[lindseybe@greenbaywi.gov](mailto:lindseybe@greenbaywi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: City v. Bostelmann Filings

Hi all,

Following up to see where things stand. During our discussions with Ryan yesterday, our understanding was the governors office was looking at options to address our concerns about the election as well.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 25, 2020, at 3:33 PM, Roth, Colin T. <[rothct@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:rothct@doj.state.wi.us)> wrote:

Thanks, Lindsay. We'll get the waivers filled out and returned, maybe not today but by sometime tomorrow.

Best,

**Colin T. Roth**

Assistant Attorney General  
Wisconsin Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 7857  
Madison, WI 53707-7857  
Direct: (608) 264-6219  
Fax: (608) 267-2223

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**From:** Lindsay Mather <[lindsayma@greenbaywi.gov](mailto:lindsayma@greenbaywi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 3:05 PM  
**To:** Roth, Colin T. <[rothct@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:rothct@doj.state.wi.us)>

**Cc:** Vanessa Chavez <[VanessaCh@greenbaywi.gov](mailto:VanessaCh@greenbaywi.gov)>; Lindsey Belongea <[lindseybe@greenbaywi.gov](mailto:lindseybe@greenbaywi.gov)>

**Subject:** City v. Bostelmann Filings

Good afternoon Attorney Roth,

Attached for your convenience are the Summonses for your clients as well as the Verified Complaint. I have also attached requests to waive service of a summons for both Governor Evers and Secretary Palm.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

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Assistant City Attorney  
City of Green Bay  
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**To:** [Roth, Colin T.](#)  
**Cc:** [Lindsay Mather](#); [Lindsey Belongea](#)  
**Subject:** Re: City v. Bostelmann Filings  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:17:56 PM

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Yes, if you are able to find out what their plan is, that would be great.

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Rep.Macco](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** Stay Up-To-Date With COVID-19  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:04:00 PM



## Stay Up-To-Date With COVID-19

[UPDATE.jpg](#)



Click [here](#) or on the picture above for more COVID-19 resources and information.

Staying current on all the information surrounding Coronavirus can be difficult.

I will continue to update you on major developments and highlight the resources available to you as Wisconsin grapples with Coronavirus.

Please keep in touch and contact my office with any questions or concerns.

[Visit my website for more COVID-19 information and resources.](#)

Sincerely,

johns signature.PNG



John J. Macco

## Gatherings Limited to 10 or Less

As of 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 17th, mass gatherings of 10 people or more in Wisconsin were prohibited under Emergency Order #5.

Additionally, restaurants and other establishments were ordered to close all public seating. Food establishments may remain open for take-out or delivery orders.

More information can be found [here](#).

## **Schools Closed Until Further Notice**

As of 5:00 PM on Wednesday, March 18th, all public and private schools and institutions of higher education in Wisconsin were closed till further notice. Some institutions have opted to move classes online.

More information can be found [here](#).

## **UW-Madison and UW-Green Bay Move Classes Online**

In the interest of keeping students and faculty safe, UW-Madison and UW-Green Bay have moved their classes online.

## **Federal Tax Filing Extension**

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced that individuals can delay their tax payments for 90 days due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Individuals can defer up to \$1 million in payments for 90 days from the April 15th deadline.

### **Stay Connected with Rep. Macco**

rep.macco@legis.wi.gov | [Read Online](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



**From:** [Rep.Macco](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Chavez](#)  
**Subject:** Stay Up-To-Date With COVID-19  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:04:00 PM



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