

ORDER OF PUBLIC HEALTH MADISON AND DANE COUNTY

**ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER OF
MADISON AND DANE COUNTY IMPOSING A
COUNTYWIDE MORATORIUM ON MASS GATHERINGS
OF 250 OR MORE PEOPLE
TO MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

DATE OF ORDER: MARCH 14, 2020

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (Wis. Stats. §§ 252.03, 252.25).

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF WIS. STATS. §252.03, THE PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICER OF MADISON AND DANE COUNTY
ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Effective as of 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2020, and continuing until further notice, public and private Mass Gatherings, defined below, are hereby prohibited in the City of Madison and Dane County.
2. Definitions:
 - a. For purposes of this Order, a “Mass Gathering” is any event or convening, subject to the exceptions listed below, that brings together or is likely to bring together two hundred fifty (250) or more people in a single room or single confined or enclosed space at the same time, such as, by way of example and without limitation, an auditorium, stadium, arena, conference room, meeting hall, theater, exhibition center, museum, places of worship and religious gathering centers, and any other space where people are present and they are within arm’s length of one another for more than ten (10) minutes.
 - b. The locations listed below are not included in the definition of “Mass Gathering”:

- (i) Dane County Regional Airport;
 - (ii) Public, private, and charter schools;
 - (iii) Hotels and motels (not including meeting facilities, conference rooms, event spaces, or banquet halls);
 - (iv) Correctional facilities;
 - (v) Shelter facilities for individuals and families;
 - (vi) Residential buildings (not including meeting facilities, conference rooms, event spaces, or banquet halls);
 - (vii) Retail food establishments (grocery stores, convenience stores, farmer's markets);
 - (viii) Shopping malls and other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but are generally not within arm's length of one another for more than ten (10) minutes;
 - (ix) Hospitals and medical facilities;
 - (x) Long-term care facilities;
 - (xi) Libraries;
 - (xii) Health, fitness and recreational centers (not including meeting facilities, conference rooms, event spaces, or banquet halls);
 - (xiii) Restaurants and Bars (not including meeting facilities, conference rooms, event spaces, or banquet halls); and
 - (xiv) Office spaces (not including meeting facilities, conference rooms, event spaces, or banquet halls).
3. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, and best practices as currently known and available to protect vulnerable members of the public from avoidable risk of serious illness or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19. Although most people who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, people with mild symptoms and asymptomatic people with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk.
4. This Order will reduce the likelihood that many people will be exposed to COVID-19 at a single event, and will thereby slow the spread of COVID-19 within the City of Madison and Dane County. By reducing the spread of COVID-19, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity.
5. This Order is issued in light of the existence of several cases of COVID-19 within Dane County, including a significant and increasing number of assumed cases of community transmission nationwide.

6. This Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in mass gatherings that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, such as: the increased likelihood that mass gatherings will attract people from broad geographic areas who could be infected; the prolonged time period in which large numbers of people are in close proximity and could be exposed to COVID-19; and the difficulty in tracing exposure when large numbers of people attend a single event.
7. This Order comes after the release of substantial guidance from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other public health officials throughout the United States and around the world.
8. The Public Health Officer will continue to assess the quickly evolving situation and may modify this Order, or issue additional Orders, related to COVID-19. The Public Health Officer is supportive of any event that chooses to voluntarily restrict attendees to fewer than two hundred fifty (250).
9. Events with fewer than two hundred fifty (250) attendees are encouraged to take the following precautionary steps:
 - a. Older adults, pregnant women, people with weakened immune systems, and people with underlying health conditions that are at increased risk of COVID-19 are encouraged not to attend (including employees);
 - b. Social distancing recommendations should be met (limit contact of people within six (6) feet from each other for ten (10) minutes or longer);
 - c. Provide sanitation and prevention hygiene resources to all attendees and employees; and
 - d. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
10. This Order shall become effective at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2020, and will continue until further notice or amended in writing by the Public Health Officer.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Janel Heinrich
Public Health Officer