Dunn County Health Department

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Dunn County Health Department Administrative Order Number 20-01

WHEREAS, in approximately December of 2019, a novel virus known as the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) causing the disease known as coronavirus (COVID-19) was detected and has spread throughout the world and every state in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a communicable disease with the potential for severe and life-threatening consequences; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Tony Evers declared a public health emergency regarding response to and containment of COVID-19 in the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump proclaimed a National Emergency regarding COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Board of Supervisors declared a state of emergency in Dunn County, Wisconsin, by Resolution No. 2020-18; and

WHEREAS, Dunn County has had multiple confirmed cases of residents infected with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, every county is required to establish a county health department responsible for providing and administering certain health and welfare programs within the county pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 251.02.; and

WHEREAS, local health officers are appointed under Wis. Stat. § 251.06 and are responsible for administering the local health department, enforcing local regulations, enforcing state public health statutes and rules, and administering all funds received by the local health department for public health programs; and

WHEREAS, Dunn County's Public Health Department jurisdiction (and, therefore, the local health officer's jurisdiction) extends to the entire area represented by the County Board pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 251.08, and because Dunn County cities, villages and towns do not have local health department, the County's jurisdiction extends to all cities, villages and towns within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, local health officers have certain duties and powers with respect to communicable diseases under Wis. Stat. Ch. 252; and

WHEREAS, upon the appearance of a communicable disease within a local health officer's jurisdiction, said local health officer must immediately investigate all the circumstances and must, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 252.03, "promptly take all measures necessary to prevent, suppress and control communicable diseases," and in addition to this broad grant of authority, local health officers are also granted express authority to take action, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) Inspect schools and other public buildings within the Local Health Officer's jurisdiction as needed to determine whether the buildings are kept in a sanitary condition; (2) whatever is reasonably necessary for the prevention and suppression of disease; and, (3) forbid public gatherings when deemed necessary to control outbreaks or epidemics; and

WHEREAS, the local health officer's ability to invoke such authority does not require a formal declaration of emergency by the Governor or by the County Board of Supervisors pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 252.03, and actions under Wis. Stat. Ch. 252 requiring emergency declarations are qualified as such under Wis. Stat. § 252.041.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers and authority vested in the local health officer,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Mass gatherings. Dunn County residents are advised to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people in their place of work, play or worship. All gatherings that bring together people in a single room or confined or enclosed space, whether inside or outside, at the same time should: (a) preserve physical distancing (maintaining 6 feet of distance between people and avoiding all direct physical contact); and, (b) follow all other public health recommendations issued by Dunn County Public Health Department, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the US Centers for Disease Control.

2. Closure of schools. In line with the decision of the Supreme Court, all public and private schools in Dunn County shall remain closed. Staff presence on school property for basic operations, to distribute food, or to support distance learning will be allowed.

3. Safe business practices. In the interest of public safety, all Dunn County businesses shall:

    a. Have policies in place to monitor their staff for symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to a known case on a regular basis;

    b. Have policies that support working from home, when feasible;

    c. Have policies encouraging handwashing, wearing masks, and physical distancing;

    d. Have policies and supplies to ensure adequate disinfection and cleaning;

    e. Cooperate with Public Health investigations related to COVID-19 confirmed or suspected cases related to the business operations, including excluding employees based on public health recommendations and assisting public health with identifying and contacting contacts of cases;

    f. Cease door-to-door operations; and

    g. Review the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation guidelines on safe business practices, available here: https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/. Businesses must consider

integrating and adopting the applicable guidelines for the operations that are currently permitted under this Order.

4. Travel. Residents are strongly encouraged to avoid non-essential travel outside of their communities.

   a. Residents are allowed to travel to work or to take care of dependents.

   b. Residents who travel to the Twin Cities for work must be cautious and monitor themselves for symptoms.

   c. If a Dunn County resident does travel outside their community or travels using confined means he/she should limit contact with non-household members for 14 days and monitor symptoms closely.

5. Term. This order is effective as of May 14, 2020, and shall remain in effect until May 26, 2020 or until it is superseded by a subsequent state or local order

Dated: May 14, 2020

Kathryn "KT" Gallagher
Local Health Officer
Director, Dunn County Health Department