



Washburn County Health Department
Washburn County Health and Human Services Department
222 Oak St. Spooner, WI, 54801 | Phone: 715-635-4400
co.washburn.wi.us



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 08/03/2020
Contact: Cheri Nickell, Washburn County Health Officer

COVID-19: Face Coverings and Slowing the Spread

Governor Tony Evers issued an Emergency Order requiring individuals to wear face coverings when indoors and not in a private residence. This order went into effect on Saturday, August 1, 2020. The Washburn County Health Department strongly urges everyone to wear face coverings to protect our residents, visitors, and businesses. When combined with physical distancing and good hand hygiene, wearing face coverings is our best defense against spreading the virus.

Recent studies have found that masks made with two or three layers of fabric, such as T-shirt cloth and other commonly available fabrics, may block respiratory droplets with a similar effectiveness as medical masks while maintaining comparable breathability. These studies concluded that use of cloth face coverings can provide significant protection against the transmission of aerosol and droplet particles.

INDIVIDUALS

Individuals should follow guidance outlined by the Washburn County Health Department and in the Governor's Emergency Order:

- [WCHD COVID-19 Advisory #4: Face Coverings](#)
- [Emergency Order #1](#)
- [Emergency Order #1 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Complaints regarding compliance with the order should be directed to the Washburn County Health Department at health@co.washburn.wi.us or by calling 715-635-4400, email is preferred. **DO NOT** call 9-1-1 for complaints regarding Emergency Order #1. The Health Department will receive complaints or concerns and work with the appropriate parties to remedy any identified issues.

BUSINESSES

Businesses should implement mask policies that follow the requirements in [Emergency Order #1](#) to protect staff and patrons. Businesses are also encouraged to continue following safety procedures outline in the [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's "Safe Reopening" Guidance](#).

Business implementing mask policies are encouraged to contact Law Enforcement if a non-compliant customer becomes confrontational and refuses to leave the business. Law Enforcement will continue to assist businesses in these situations. Non-emergency questions or concerns regarding Emergency Order #1 should be directed to the Health Department at health@co.washburn.wi.us or 715-635-4400.

GATHERINGS

Given the rapid increase in cases in Washburn County, the Health Department strongly advises against any gatherings where you **cannot guarantee with 100% certainty** that physical distancing of at least 6 feet can be practiced. Any gathering with non-household members can expose attendees to COVID-19.



Washburn County Health Department

Washburn County Health and Human Services Department
222 Oak St. Spooner, WI, 54801 | Phone: 715-635-4400
co.washburn.wi.us



Washburn County businesses and residents should take the following steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Physical distancing of at least 6 feet from people who do not live together.
- Use of cloth face coverings when in public places.
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water, or sanitize with hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are unavailable.
- If experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/symptoms.htm>), isolate yourself as much as possible and get tested.
- Businesses should follow the WEDC's guidelines for reopening (<https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>)

Visit <https://www.co.washburn.wi.us/news/public-health/Coronavirus-Outbreak> for up-to-date information and Washburn County testing information by provider. Questions can be directed to the Health Department at 715-635-4400 or by email to health@co.washburn.wi.us.