

**EAU CLAIRE CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS
EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2021**

WHEREAS, on December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) was detected, a virus that causes a disease now named COVID-19, and it has spread throughout the world;

WHEREAS, as a novel disease with no certain immunity and currently limited rates of full vaccination in the community, a segment of the population remains at risk of illness, hospitalization, long-term health issues, and death related to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, physical contact and close proximity to infected individuals, some of whom may be asymptomatic, causes the rapid spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 activity remains high throughout much of Wisconsin, including in Eau Claire County, with 11,465 total cases and 108 total deaths confirmed and 456 cases and 4 deaths occurring in the past 60 days;

WHEREAS, vaccination is only available currently to those age sixteen and older which impacts population immunity measures;

WHEREAS, SARS-CoV-2 has a history of mutation, creating an environment for variant strains to emerge, which has happened across the world;

WHEREAS, a variant of concern (B.1.1.1), which is known to be more infectious and has been linked to increased disease severity, has been detected in significant levels in surrounding states despite limited testing and there have been multiple cases identified in Eau Claire County;

WHEREAS, it remains critical to limit community transmission of COVID-19 to reduce the spread of existing variants and the potential for the development of new variants while approaching vaccination milestones;

WHEREAS, a progressive approach to the relaxation of mitigation measures seeks to facilitate a strategic return to socioeconomic normalcy while balancing the remaining public health risk and enables an evaluation of the public health impacts following each step in the progression;

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 252.03 provides that every local health officer “*shall promptly take all measures necessary to prevent, suppress and control communicable diseases*”; and “*may do what is reasonable and necessary for prevention and suppression of disease*”; and “*may forbid public gatherings when deemed necessary to control outbreaks or epidemics*”;

WHEREAS, based on the specific circumstances in Eau Claire County and my investigation of COVID-19 in Eau Claire County I have determined that these community-wide expectations are necessary to prevent the spread of, suppress, and control COVID-19 in Eau Claire County;

WHEREAS, these expectations are intended to replace the EAU CLAIRE CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS effective April 1st, 2021 in order to best address the current local conditions of COVID-19 in Eau Claire County.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Elizabeth Giese, director and health officer for all of Eau Claire County by the

authority vested in me by the Laws of the State, including but not limited to Section 252.03 of the Wisconsin Statutes, state the following:

1 Individual Expectations.

- Unless otherwise noted here, follow the most recent national, state, and local official public health guidance for travel, physical distancing, face covering use, other mitigation measures, and participation in various activities. A directory of acceptable guidance is maintained here: <http://bit.ly/ECwebresources>.
- Stay home when sick with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and get tested. Do not go to work or school or engage in other activities.
 - Cooperate with any public health investigation as a COVID-19 case or close contact including required isolation and quarantine.
- Determine vaccination plan for COVID-19.

2 Expectations for Indoor and Outdoor Public Spaces and Buildings and Public Gatherings.

This includes all public spaces and public buildings, including private events at public venues. Examples include, but are not limited to: schools and childcare, athletic facilities, businesses, government, and service providers. Gatherings include planned or spontaneous events that occur with a number of people in attendance in a defined location for a prolonged period of time. This may include but is not limited to concerts, festivals, sporting events, or other public or private social events.

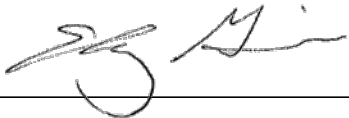
- Unless otherwise noted here, follow the most recent national, state, and local official public health guidance, and applicable industry guidance for mitigation of disease transmission, as well as outbreak prevention and containment. A directory of such acceptable guidance is maintained here: <http://bit.ly/ECwebresources>.
- Specific procedural measures to implement include, but are not limited to:
 - Implement policies to assure the use of face coverings.
 - Increase standards of facility cleaning and disinfection.
 - Adopt policies to actively screen and prevent employees, students, customers, visitors, and guests from entering the premises if they display COVID-19-like symptoms, have COVID-19, or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
 - Adopt policies that actively support employees who are required to quarantine or isolate.
 - Cooperate with public health investigations related to COVID-19 confirmed or suspected cases.
 - Consider policies to vaccinate paid and unpaid workforce.
- Reduce overall capacity to no more than 60% for all public spaces. Further limit capacity if venue is unable to accommodate this level of capacity while maintaining expected basic mitigation measures, including physical distancing.

Note: Future revisions of this document will include incremental increases in acceptable

capacity. The projected progression, which is dependent upon sustained progress towards disease activity and vaccination goals, can be viewed here: bit.ly/ECC-CommunityExpectations.

- Implement measures to assure physical distancing can be maintained between individual groups on the premises.
- Consultation with the Health Department is strongly recommended when organizing a **gathering with elevated risk** to assure that measures are taken to minimize risk. The instructions for pursuing consultation are available here: <https://www.eauclairewi.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=35017>
- Gatherings classified as being elevated risk include the following scenarios:
 - Indoor gathering with non-seated activities (e.g., festival or market, wedding reception) – 250 or more attendees
 - Indoor gathering with attendees seated (e.g., performance or presentation) – 500 or more attendees
 - Outdoor-only gathering with non-seated activities – 500 or more attendees
 - Outdoor-only gathering with attendees seated – 1,000 or more attendees

3. Duration. These expectations are effective immediately and shall remain in effect until superseding guidance is issued based on public health science and data, including progress towards community vaccination and local disease trends (see projected progression here: bit.ly/ECC-CommunityExpectations). Data and research shall be regularly examined to ensure the most salient recommendations are available to the public. Minimally, these expectations will be updated monthly.



Elizabeth Giese

04/30/2021

Date

Eau Claire City-County Health Department