

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department Clarifies Community Misinformation

Eau Claire, WI, October 5, 2020 – The Health Department has become aware that over the weekend individuals have been posting generic isolation and quarantine placards on area businesses. None of these placards were placed by the Eau Claire City County Health Department. The Health Department has not placed any isolation or quarantine placards on any establishment, residence, or facility during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We believe that this “spamming” is part of a misinformation campaign related to the communicable disease ordinances being considered by the City Council and County Board this month. We feel it is important to clarify that the ordinances being discussed:

- Do **not** grant any new authority or power to local health officers. The authorities and duties of the local health officer are determined by and outlined in state statute.
- Are **not** specifically targeted to COVID-19. These ordinances provide a local framework for **any** future communicable disease orders by outlining when an order would be reviewed by City Council or County Board.

We encourage people who are looking for good information to review the draft ordinances and closely read the words that are written. Health Department staff may not be able to answer calls about these ordinances as we are prioritizing COVID-19 response during this time. The websites below have accurate additional information.

City of Eau Claire informational website on the proposed city ordinance:

<https://www.eauclairewi.gov/Home/Components/News/News/9298/>

Eau Claire County informational website on the proposed county ordinance: <https://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/our-government/government-resources/legislation-resources/local-health-ordinance-file-no-20-21-073>

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