



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Contact:

Audrey Boerner  
Public Information Officer, Eau Claire COVID-19 response  
[audrey.boerner@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:audrey.boerner@co.eau-claire.wi.us), (715) 579-5962

### Health Department updates COVID-19 Prevention and Control *Community Expectations*

**Eau Claire, WI- January 25, 2020** - Today, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department is releasing revised COVID-19 *Community Expectations*. These *Community Expectations* were last revised in November 2020 when we were experiencing a significant and dangerous surge in cases. The local data does still show that we need to keep up our basic safety precautions of keeping 6ft distance, wearing masks, frequent hand washing, and getting tested if experiencing any symptoms.

However, our rate of positive tests and number of total positive cases each week have improved over the past few weeks, and the *Community Expectations* have been updated to reflect these improvements. **The goal of the *Community Expectations* is to provide practical suggestions for individuals, public spaces, and private or public gatherings to stay safe and reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19.** Our community will be stronger if we work together to maintain these practices while we are seeing the promise of vaccination. Detailed information about the *Community Expectations* is available here: [bit.ly/ECC-CommunityExpectations](https://bit.ly/ECC-CommunityExpectations)

#### Some of the expectations of Eau Claire County individuals include:

- Stay at home as much as possible
- Avoid gatherings of 10 or more individuals and know the names and contact information for any people you choose to spend time with
- Keep 6 ft distance and wear a cloth face covering when you are in public
- Stay home when sick and get tested for COVID-19
- Decide on a vaccination plan for COVID-19 vaccine when eligible

#### Some of the expectations for businesses and other entities open to the public include:

- Reduce occupancy to 50% and keep 6 ft between households in public spaces and businesses
- Establish policies that prohibit social activities that promote close contact (dancing, close contact sports, some performances)
- Adopt policies that actively support employees who are required to quarantine or isolate to stay home
- Avoid meeting in person as much as possible

**Some of the expectations for public and private gatherings include:**

- Any public or private gathering is expected to be no more than 100 people indoors and no more than 250 people outdoors as long as 6 ft distance between households and other Community Expectations for gatherings can be maintained
- Indoor gatherings of more than one household for socialization purposes is strongly discouraged
- Use assigned or fixed seating and document contact information of attendees

Additional expectations are outlined for personal one-on-one services and mass transportation. All residents are encouraged to read the [full document](#).

In addition, the Health Department will do the following when complaints about *Community Expectations* are received:

- follow up on all complaints received particularly those that include verifiable information
- provide resources and education on public health principles and best practices
- formally document the follow up, including a letter sent to any entity that is not following the basic prevention and control expectations.

The Eau Claire County community needs and deserves compliance with these science-based principles and should hold one another accountable. Thank you for supporting businesses, educators, religious institutions, and the many other community-based entities that are working in creative and committed ways to follow these *Expectations*. It is not easy for these entities – they need our financial support. Please let them know they are appreciated. Their leadership work is not easy, but they are choosing to protect their employees, their customers, their students, their community.

**If you have documentable community concerns, please contact the COVID-19 hotline at 715-831-7425 and they will provide your feedback to our team for follow-up.**

Please visit the [covid19eauclaire.org](https://covid19eauclaire.org) website for more information.

**###**

Promoting health and safety for all Eau Claire communities