



Milwaukee County COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
COVID-19 Order Restricting Food and Beverage Sales in Milwaukee County
Version 1 Issued and Effective as of 2:01 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020

I. COVID-19 Order Restricting Food and Beverage Sales in Milwaukee County

Under the authority of Wis. Stat. § 252.03, the Public Health Officers of all Milwaukee County municipalities, including the Health Departments of Milwaukee City, Cudahy, Franklin, Greendale, Greenfield, Hales Corners, North Shore (Bayside, Brown Deer, Fox Point, Glendale, River Hills, Shorewood and Whitefish Bay), Oak Creek, South Milwaukee/St. Francis, Wauwatosa, and West Allis/West Milwaukee Village, in coordination with all municipal Mayors, Village Presidents, and the Milwaukee County Executive, order the following:

A. Effective as of 2:01 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, and continuing until further notice, public and private Mass Gatherings, defined below, are hereby prohibited in Milwaukee County and all of its municipalities. This order builds on the restrictions in the “Order Prohibiting Mass Gatherings of 50 or More People”¹ issued by Governor Evers on March 16, 2020, to meet the needs of the Milwaukee metropolitan area, which is beginning to experience community transmission.

B. Food and Beverage Service Restrictions and Exemptions

1. Restrictions: The locations listed below are ordered closed until further notice, unless otherwise exempted in sub 2 below:
 - i. Liquor, beer and wine sales in Milwaukee County and its municipalities are restricted to carry-out sales and delivery only, to the extent permitted by law. No onsite consumption is permitted.
 - ii. Food and beverage sales are restricted to carry-out and delivery only. No onsite consumption is permitted.
2. Exemptions to issued closures and guidance for operating facilities:
 - i. Food service in health care facilities.
 - ii. Food service and catering at weddings or funerals.²
 - iii. Lines for carry-out must have an environment where patrons and staff maintain social distancing (six feet away from other people) whenever possible.
 - iv. Everyone is urged to continue to wash hands, utilize hand sanitizer and practice proper respiratory etiquette (coughing into elbow, etc.).

¹https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/03/16/file_attachments/1402207/DHS%20Order%20Mass%20Gatherings%20of%2050%20or%20More.pdf

² Weddings and funerals are subject to Governor Evers’ Order Prohibiting Mass Gatherings of 50 or More People; weddings and funerals may not have more than 50 people in a space, including food service workers.

- C. The immediate implementation of this Order is necessary as patrons of bars and restaurants continue to gather in large number, in close proximity to each other, in closed spaces, thereby endangering the health of the staff and the patrons.
- D. The overriding goal of this Order is to minimize the in-person interaction which is the primary means of transmission. Restaurants and bars increase and encourage talking, touching, and other social interaction in an environment with a multitude of hard surfaces.
- E. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, and best practices as currently known and available to protect vulnerable members of the public from avoidable risk of serious illness or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19. Although most people who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, people with mild symptoms and asymptomatic people with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk.
- F. This Order will reduce the likelihood that many people will be exposed to COVID-19 at a single event, and will thereby slow the spread of COVID-19 within Milwaukee County and its nineteen (19) municipalities. By reducing the spread of COVID-19, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity.
- G. This Order is issued in light of the existence of several cases of COVID-19 within Milwaukee County, including a significant and increasing number of assumed cases of community transmission nationwide.³
- H. This Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in mass gatherings that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, such as: the increased likelihood that mass gatherings will attract people from broad geographic areas who could be infected; the prolonged time period in which large numbers of people are in close proximity and could be exposed to COVID-19; and the difficulty in tracing exposure when large numbers of people attend a single event.

³ CDC, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the U.S., <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

IT IS SO ORDERED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF
MILWAUKEE COUNTY.

Milwaukee City Public Health Officer, Dr. Jeanette Kowalik

Cudahy Public Health Officer, Katie Lepak

Franklin Public Health Officer, Courtney Day

Greendale Public Health Officer, Sue Shepard

Greenfield Public Health Officer, Darren J. Rausch, M.S.

Hales Corners Public Health Officer, Kathy Radloff

North Shore Public Health Officer, Ann Christiansen

Oak Creek Public Health Officer, Darcy DuBois



South Milwaukee/St. Francis Public Health Officer, Jacqueline Ove

Wauwatosa Public Health Officer, Laura Conklin

West Allis/West Milwaukee Village Public Health Officer, Robert Leischow



Statement from South Milwaukee Mayor Erik Brooks on the Health Department Order Related to Reducing the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

This evening, the City of South Milwaukee is joining with other local communities in issuing an order aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19, including strictly prohibiting dining-in at restaurants and bars, effective at 2:01 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17.

Please see the Health Department order for more information.

While we recognize this order is a hardship for small businesses and others, we are doing this out of an abundance of caution and continue to make public health our top priority. Guidance from federal, state and local health professionals and the experience from other communities, states and countries is clear: We need to take these kinds of measures to slow the spread of the illness and protect our community. That has to be our focus.