



NORTH SHORE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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May 19th, 2020

Dear North Shore resident:

Based on the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision on May 13, 2020, local health departments in suburban Milwaukee County, including the North Shore Health Department, issued Order #1 pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Sections 252.03(1) and (2) to continue controlling COVID-19 disease transmission throughout Milwaukee County. This temporary, stop-gap order was designed to provide immediate clarity in the wake of the court decision, while providing an opportunity for residents and businesses to adjust to new realities. Specifically, we understood that businesses would not be able to open rapidly but would need time to prepare for reopening in compliance with best practices guidance from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and other statewide organizations. Businesses and organizations should begin preparations for opening in the coming days.

Moving forward, businesses and organizations should begin to reopen under the North Shore Health Department's [Guidelines](#) for a Safe, Phased Reopening. These Guidelines are similar to those issued by other suburban health departments in Milwaukee County. The North Shore Health Department's Guidelines should be used in conjunction with sector specific guidelines by agencies like the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation ([WEDC](#)), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services ([DHS](#)), the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families ([DCF](#)) and others. All of these guidelines will help prepare for the phased reopening of businesses and organizations in a safe and effective manner to help protect business owners, employees, customers and others from becoming sick with COVID-19.

At this time, our plan is for businesses and the community to follow the North Shore Health Department's guidelines for reopening as outlined in Phase B starting Friday, May 22, 2020. Under Phase B, it is recommended that gatherings continue to be limited to 10 people and that businesses reopen with recommended occupancy limits to control the number of people in establishments. Occupancy limits will allow customers and employees to be physically distant because there will be fewer people and more vacant room in these settings. As businesses begin to open, there will be a lot of uncertainty. It is our hope that all North Shore businesses will use the information provided to regain confidence in their operations and assure the public of a safe business environment. The North Shore Health Department supports the growth and recovery of all businesses as we work together to achieve our goals within a community that must learn to continue to operate with the presence of COVID-19.

Furthermore, the North Shore Health Department will continue to monitor gating criteria to keep residents and businesses informed on the status of COVID-19 in our

communities. This gating criteria includes COVID-19 cases; the ability of our hospital and healthcare systems to care for those who are acutely ill with COVID-19; and testing capacity. The data is retrieved from the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management dashboard. This information will help us determine how long our communities will operate under these guidelines before new guidelines will be released, recommending more widescale openings of our businesses.

As we move into the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Shore Health Department recognizes the support of the community in helping keep our residents healthy and safe. For updated information and guidance on the reopening of the North Shore communities, visit our [website](#).

Resources for Reopening:

- North Shore Health Department/Suburban Milwaukee County Safe Opening Capacity Guidance [Chart](#)
- North Shore Health Department [Detailed Guidelines](#) for a Safe Reopening
- Milwaukee County of Emergency Management [dashboard](#)
- WEDC Reopen [Guidelines](#)
- The Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, Medical College of Wisconsin and Milwaukee 7 Economic Development Partnership collaborated to launch an online toolkit designed to help businesses open and operate safely. It can be accessed [here](#).

Sincerely,



Ann Christiansen, Health Officer