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Door County Public Health Statement

There is nothing like the summer or fall in Door County. We feel it is one of the best places to live, work, visit, and play. As we enter the peak of our tourist/busy season, we are at an important crossroads for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. Our neighboring counties and states are seeing significant increases in the number of positive cases.

With the increase in visitors and activity in our local community, it is imperative now more than ever that we all practice the public health safety guidelines from the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#). These guidelines include wearing a cloth face covering at all times in public, maintaining at least six (6) feet distance from anyone not in your household and avoiding all large gatherings, events and crowded areas.

Failing to wear a mask in public, not practicing social distancing and offering to hold or attend large gatherings puts the physical health, mental health and financial well-being of our entire community at risk.

For the rest of the year, Door County will see a significant increase in visitors and potential events that foster large groups of people. There is emerging data that supports that the currently increasing cases across the country are related to activities and gatherings that create challenging environments for reducing the spread of COVID-19. For Wisconsin, while there were more confirmed COVID-19 cases during early May compared to early June, more than twice the percentage of cases (14% compared to 7%) reported attending a gathering or party or meeting up with people outside their homes within two weeks of getting COVID-19. We know increasing the number of interactions with people and how long each interaction lasts, increases the risk of being infected with and spreading COVID-19.

Our community is concerned, county officials are concerned, and Door County Public Health is concerned.

To help protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- **Stay home if you're feeling sick or feel off.** A number of new cases reported going out in public while feeling symptomatic.
- **Stay home if you don't need to go out.** Working from home, virtual gatherings, and using curbside or delivery ordering are still the safest and best options to protect yourself and others.

- **Wear a cloth face covering if you go out.** This is a simple, effective way to help reduce risk for yourself and others.
- **Protect your workers and customers.** [Follow public health recommendations.](#)
- **Assume you have come in contact with COVID-19 if you go out.** Currently, 37% of cases didn't know where they could've gotten COVID-19. Watch for symptoms like fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. If you have these symptoms, call your doctor to be tested.

This pandemic makes clear that every person's health is intertwined with the wellbeing of our fellow community members. We ask everyone to please help in cooperating with disease prevention. These simple but effective efforts have the ability to greatly reduce the number of people who become severely ill, protect our health care system and save lives.

Door County would like to thank the following partners for their support of this message to help keep Door County safe through this holiday season and beyond:

City of Sturgeon Bay
Town of Baileys Harbor
Town of Sevastopol
Town of Liberty Grove
Town of Egg Harbor
Town of Gibraltar
Town of Brussels
Village of Ephraim
Village of Sister Bay
Village of Egg Harbor
Ephraim Fire Department
Gibraltar Fire Department
Door County Medical Center
Bellin Health
Washington Island Community Health Program
Door County Medical Clinic - Washington Island
Door County Economic Development Corporation
Destination Door County
Destination Sturgeon Bay
Jacksonport Area Business Association
Baileys Harbor Community Association
Door County North Business Association
Egg Harbor Business Association
Ephraim Business Council
Sister Bay Advancement Association
Good Samaritan Society – Scandia Village
United Way of Door County

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