

REOPENING BELOIT

Questions & Answers

Why is this being implemented in Beloit?

Currently, over 65% of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Rock County are in the Beloit area despite Beloit being only 22% of the population (as of Friday, May 5, 2020). The disproportionate impact on our community is concerning as we attempt to stop the spread of the virus, protect our most vulnerable residents, and keep the health care system from being overloaded.

+65%

of confirmed Rock County cases are in the Beloit area.

What does the plan entail?

The resolution adopted by the Beloit City Council allows Beloit businesses to safely reopen while protecting the health of vulnerable individuals in Beloit. The resolution addresses the risks of COVID-19 via the following:

- **Requiring any buildings or spaces that are open to the public to meet public health and safety practices**, including (but not limited to) the requirement of physical distancing. Note this section of the resolution applies to all public spaces, including in businesses such as bars, salons and barber shops, as well as churches.
- **Requiring all individuals in the City of Beloit to comply with physical distancing requirements** and protective measurements when in shared or public spaces outside of their own homes.
- **Strongly discouraging mass gatherings of over 25 individuals**; mass gatherings of over 25 individuals in city-owned facilities and spaces, including parks, will be prohibited.
- **Encouraging individuals living in Beloit to stay home at their place of residence** and to avoid traveling outside of Rock County.
- **Encouraging individuals who may be vulnerable to the risks of COVID-19 to take extra precautions** and not leave their homes for their own personal health and safety.



What is the city's authority to implement this?

Although the Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned the state's Safer at Home order on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, local municipalities and public health officials maintain their authority and obligations related to prevention and control of COVID-19. This authority is under Chapter 323 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and section 1.10 of the Code of General Ordinances for the City of Beloit.

How long is this order in effect?

Currently, Rock County Public Health's order is more stringent than what is being proposed in the City of Beloit's resolution; whichever is the more stringent order will be followed by the City of Beloit. The City of Beloit's resolution will be in effect until June 2, 2020, unless otherwise modified by the Beloit City Council. The Beloit City Council will review public health data and evaluate the latest information in the public health crisis on June 1, 2020, to determine any next steps. **The City of Beloit's order is intended to allow all businesses to safely reopen while protecting the health of vulnerable residents in Beloit and help keep the health care system from being overwhelmed.**

What are the requirements & recommendations for businesses to reopen?

- Use technology to avoid meeting in person, if possible, to avoid meeting in person (i.e. virtual meetings, teleconference, and remote work).
- Review the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation guidelines on safe business practices at <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>.
- Comply with physical distancing requirements and protective measures.
- Allot 144 square feet of space per living unit or household in a business, both inside and outside and including decks and patios, which shall not in any event exceed an occupancy limit established by building code.
- Restrict the number of workers present on premises to no more than is strictly necessary to perform operations.
- Increase standards of facility cleaning and disinfection to limit worker and patron exposure to COVID-19, as well as adopting protocols to clean and disinfect in the event of a positive COVID-19 case in the workplace.
- Adopt policies to actively screen and prevent workers from entering the premises if they display COVID-19-like symptoms or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Adopt policies to actively screen and prevent customers, visitors, guests from entering the premises if they display symptoms identified by the CDC as symptoms related to COVID-19 or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Consider establishing curbside pick-up to reduce in-store traffic and mitigate outdoor lines.
- Cease any self-service operations of any type of food or beverage.
- Prohibit customers from self-dispensing all unpackaged food, except for grocery stores.
- Establish lines with markings to enable patrons to stand at least six feet apart while waiting. Stores should also use alternatives to lines, including allowing customers to wait in their cars for a text message or phone call and scheduling pick-ups or entries to the store.
- Cooperate with public health investigations related to COVID-19 confirmed or suspected cases related to the business operations, including excluding employees based on public health recommendations and assisting public health with identifying and contacting contacts of cases.

What are physical distancing and protective measure requirements?

- Maintain physical distancing of six feet between people not residing in a single living unit or household.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer.
- Cover coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands).
- Regularly clean high-touched surfaces.
- Do not shake hands.
- Use a mask or cloth face covering. *The use of masks or cloth face coverings is strongly recommended but shall not be required due to equity concerns regarding the challenges that either may cause for individuals because of disabilities and/or shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (“PPE”).*
- Follow all other public health recommendations issued by State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services (“DHS”), Rock County Health Department and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”).



How will this be enforced?

While we will seek to first educate individuals and businesses about these physical distancing requirements, failure to do so could result in municipal citations and/or could impact a license.

What is the recommendation on mass gatherings?

The City of Beloit is recommending that mass gatherings be under 25 people. The City of Beloit is prohibiting mass gatherings of over 25 people at city-owned facilities.

How does this impact City of Beloit employees/operations?

We will continue to operate our city facilities with more stringent restrictions. The City of Beloit will not allow groups to exceed 25 individuals in public parks or buildings.

Parks and trails will remain open. Please limit any gatherings to groups of under 25 and adhere to physical distancing requirements.

May 18, 2020