

CITY MANAGER

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City of Beloit Implements Reopening Requirements and Guidelines

May 18, 2020 - The Beloit City Council unanimously approved a resolution that will allow the economy to reopen while protecting vulnerable residents and helping to keep the health care system from being overwhelmed.

The implementation of the City of Beloit resolution will begin upon the conclusion of the more-stringent Rock County Public Health orders currently in effect.

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.

The overturn of the statewide Safer at Home order should not be interpreted as though the risks of COVID-19 are no longer in Wisconsin or in our community. In fact, the City of Beloit has experienced an influx of cases compared to the rest of Rock County, including a disproportionate impact on our Hispanic/Latinx families. This order is proposed so that the Beloit community can safely reopen the economy without severely straining the health care system or putting vulnerable individuals at risk. 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).

“Our goal is to keep our neighbors healthy,” said City Manager Lori Curtis Luther. “We understand and respect all of the sacrifices made by Beloit families during the last two months. We are all in this together, and we look forward to safely reopening our local economy while protecting those in our community who are vulnerable to COVID-19.”

The resolution and an FAQ will be posted to the City of Beloit's website at www.beloitwi.gov/covid19, as well as proactively being shared with the business community.

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.

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