



Press Release



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Balsam Lake, WI – On Wednesday, May 13th, the Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned the state’s Safer at Home order. With this ruling, businesses can be open.

Public health will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and will respond to any spikes in cases or outbreaks. The mission of the Polk County Health Department is ‘Partnering With Communities to Protect and Improve Health and Well-Being’. This is accomplished through a number of ways including promoting health and preventing disease.

The order is gone, the virus is not. Polk County residents are not immune to getting this virus and the numbers may increase in the days and weeks to come.

Continue to practice the recommendations that have been shared over the last eight weeks. These include maintaining physical distance, avoiding gathering in groups, using good personal hygiene, handwashing, etc. Contact your healthcare provider if you feel ill and remain at home. Consider wearing a cloth face covering when out in public.

People who are vulnerable and at higher risk of severe complications of COVID-19 may be safer staying home whenever possible. This includes people over the age of 65, people who live in nursing homes or long-term care facilities, and individuals with underlying health conditions or who are immunocompromised.

If you think you have symptoms of COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider for testing options, or visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/testing> for a list of community testing sites.

- Local businesses will now play a big role in protecting customers and staff. Local, state, and national resources are available to help businesses adapt best practices.
- Polk County Business Toolkit: https://polkcountyedc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Polk-Business-reopen-Toolkit-5-8-2020_FINAL.pdf
- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation: <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>
- Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

If you have questions or immediate needs related to COVID-19, call United Way’s 2-1-1. For up-to-date information, please visit the Polk County Health Department website and Facebook page.

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