

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Walworth County Public Health Provides Guidance to Community Following the End of the Safer at Home Order**

In the wake of the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision to overturn the Safer at Home Order, effective immediately, businesses can open and people can travel and gather in large groups. Walworth County's Division of Public Health will not be issuing orders that replace Safer at Home at this time.

Today, Walworth County released guidance on the county website for area businesses on how to implement protocols to protect their customers. County Public Health Officer, Erica Bergstrom stated, "We have faith in our business leaders and believe they will follow these guidelines and implement strategies to protect their customers and staff." The risks to the public from COVID-19 are ongoing and will extend beyond the next week or the next two weeks. As such, short-term public health orders are not likely to have a significant lasting impact. Any effective solution will be dependent upon individuals and businesses making personal decisions to proactively protect themselves, their guests, and their customers.

Walworth County places great importance on the health and safety of the public. We have already seen businesses take extraordinary steps to continue to provide services while keeping their employees and members of the public safe. "Novel Coronavirus 2019 is still circulating in the community, and we need all businesses, residents and visitors of Walworth County to actively participate in controlling the spread of disease," said Bergstrom. "Even though the Safer at Home Order has been overturned, we strongly advise that everyone voluntarily comply with its key components: physical distancing, limited travel and gatherings, and frequent cleaning." Walworth County will continue to perform communicable disease surveillance and prompt follow-up with confirmed cases and close contacts.

The Division of Public Health, Emergency Management, first responders and local government will continue to work together to keep people safe. Public Health advises everyone take the following steps to avoid getting sick or spreading COVID-19:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water, or hand sanitizer.
- Stay home when sick, including even mild symptoms, and discuss your health with your primary medical care provider.
- Practice physical distancing.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your face.

View the guidance document for business here: <https://www.co.walworth.wi.us/856/COVID-19>.