



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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 p.m.

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CITY OF WAUPUN CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

Waupun, Wis. – On Monday, March 23, 2020, city leadership was made aware of Governor Tony Evers’ intention to sign a shelter-at-home order known as Safer At Home. Information is limited at this point and city staff has not received any additional information other than what is being reported on the Governor’s Twitter page and throughout other media sources. We expect a formal announcement and signing of the order to come on Tuesday, March 24, with a short window prior to implementation. We do know that this will result in further restrictions, primarily the limiting of all non-essential business and services.

Mayor Julie Nickel said “Our primary concern continues to be the safety and well-being of the residents and staff of this community.” Nickel added “The City of Waupun takes the COVID-19 threat very seriously and city staff continue to have daily discussions to ensure the proper safety protocols are in place and to share the latest information we are being provided with the public.” We are calling on residents in the City of Waupun to do their part. Please be sure that any travel you do or meetings that you have are essential. Information that has been widely shared through the Fond du Lac and Dodge County Health Departments, the WI Department of Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have remained the same since the very start of the pandemic. This information includes:

- 1) Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water isn’t available.
- 2) Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- 3) Practice social distancing. When possible, maintain a 6-foot distance between you and others.
- 4) Stay home when you are sick.
- 5) Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- 6) Clean/sanitize surfaces and objects that people frequently touch.

If you are experiencing symptoms or worry you may have been exposed to COVID-19, Dodge County residents are to call 1-877-998-0022 and Fond du Lac County residents are to call 1-844-225-0147 for more direction from health officials before going to a healthcare facility.

City Clerk Angie Hull would like to remind residents that as far as the April 7th election goes, if you are already registered to vote you can request an absentee ballot at <https://myvote.wi.gov>. We strongly encourage you to use the vote by mail option. The State of Wisconsin has announced that they have extended online/mail voter registration until March 30th.

On March 22, 2020, Waupun Utilities was informed that Governor Evers temporarily suspended several utility-related administrative rules to allow the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to implement the following utility consumer protections during the COVID-19 emergency:

- Temporarily suspend electric and water disconnections, other than those needed for safety reasons.
- Authorize public utilities to waive late payment fees.

- Enable customers who are unable to make a cash deposit to obtain residential service.
- Ensure that deferred payment agreements are available not only to residential customers but also commercial, farm, and industrial customers
- Streamline the process for customers to apply for utility service.

Business owners are encouraged to contact City Administrator Kathy Schlieve or Community and Economic Development Coordinator Sarah Van Buren regarding disaster assistance options through the Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA has approved Wisconsin's request for small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to access low-interest federal disaster loans. Under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, businesses may qualify for up to \$2 million in loans to cover losses resulting from the pandemic. The interest rate on the loans is 3.75% for for-profit businesses and 2.75% for nonprofits. Participants may be able to extend payments for up to 30 years. Contact information for city employees is available on the City's website.

City of Waupun staff will continue to monitor the situation and will provide regular updates to our community to promote public health and welfare.

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