

**Order of the Health Officer of the City of Racine Public Health Department
Restrictions on Mass Gatherings**

May 18, 2020

Pursuant to Section 252.03 of the Wisconsin Statutes

WHEREAS, on December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus was detected, now named COVID-19, and it has spread throughout the world, including every state in the United States;

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President proclaimed a National Emergency in response to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, and April 9, 2020, the City of Racine proclaimed a public health emergency to exist in the City of Racine as a result of the threat of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, millions of people around the world have tested positive for COVID-19, including more than one million people in the United States, and more than 10,000 people in Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is present throughout the City of Racine, with over 700 people testing positive as of the date of this order;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the City of Racine, making it reasonable and necessary for the prevention and suppression of COVID-19 for the City of Racine's local health officer to forbid certain public gatherings as deemed necessary to control COVID-19 outbreaks;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Law provides broad authority and power for local health officials to prevent, control, and suppress COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. sec. 252.03(1) provides that every local health officer "shall promptly take all measures necessary to prevent, suppress and control communicable diseases";

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. sec. 252.03(2) provides that local health officers "may do what is reasonable and necessary for prevention and suppression of disease";

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. sec. 252.03(2) also provides that local health officers "may forbid public gatherings when deemed necessary to control outbreaks or epidemics";

WHEREAS, based on the specific circumstances in the City of Racine and my investigation of COVID-19 within the City, I have determined that this Order is necessary to prevent, suppress, and control COVID-19 in the City of Racine;

WHEREAS, the intent of this Order is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of City of Racine residents.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Dottie-Kay Bowersox, Public Health Administrator and local health officer for the City of Racine, by the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Wisconsin, including but not limited to Section 252.03 of the Wisconsin Statutes, order the following:

1. Mass Gatherings are prohibited for the duration of this Order.
2. Mass Gatherings are those planned events requiring the issuance of a permit or other permission from the City, or planned or spontaneous events occurring on City-owned property, including but not limited to concerts, festivals, parades, block parties, or sporting events.
 - a. Mass gatherings are prohibited in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
 - b. At gatherings of any kind outside of a household unit, including but not limited to mass gatherings, all individuals shall exercise physical distancing, as that term is defined below.
 - c. Individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, cold or flu-like symptoms, or other symptoms of illness should not attend gatherings of any size.
 - d. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a single household or living unit.
3. Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. When taking any action permitted under this Order, all individuals, organizations, government bodies, and any other permitted group of individuals shall, to the extent possible, follow DHS guidelines located here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>, and CDC guidelines located here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>.
4. Severability. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.
5. Prior orders. This Order is in addition to all prior orders issued, adopted, or incorporated by reference by the City of Racine local health officer. This Order supersedes all prior orders issued, adopted, or incorporated by reference by the City of Racine local health officer insofar as any such prior orders addressed the subject of mass gatherings, as that term is defined above, in a manner inconsistent with the Order above.
6. Duration. This Order shall become effective immediately. This Order shall terminate on July 31, 2020 at 11:59 PM.
 - a. In addition, permits or other City permission for events planned for after July 31, 2020, shall be evaluated on an individual basis and may be authorized or prohibited by the City of Racine local health officer.

- b. This Order may be extended or modified. Any superseding or subsequent order shall be based upon public health best practices, review of all available data, and may include the following indicia: availability of personal protective equipment; intensive care unit bed capacity; downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period; treatment of all patients without crisis care; community testing of all symptomatic individuals, individuals involved in an outbreak, and individuals living and working in congregate settings.

Dated at Racine, Wisconsin, this 18th day of May, 2020.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "DK Bowersox", written over a horizontal line.

Dottie-Kay Bowersox, MSA
Public Health Administrator
City of Racine Public Health Department
730 Washington Avenue, Room 109
Racine, WI 53403
Phone: 262-636-9201
Fax: 262-636-9564
www.cityofracine.org/Health/