



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pierce County Explains Latest State COVID-19 Guidance – 3/13/2020

The State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS) released new guidance yesterday afternoon regarding mass gatherings and self-quarantining after higher risk domestic travel.

Travel Recommendations

Pierce County Public Health joins WI DHS in recommending against all non-essential travel to any U.S. state where the CDC deems there is “sustained community transmission.” A map of those states can be found on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>. Additionally, for all travelers returning to Wisconsin from states where the CDC has determined that sustained community transmission is occurring, DHS recommends that those individuals self-quarantine at home for 14 days and monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever and cough).

“We are indeed requesting people who return from states which CDC has identified as locations of widespread community transmission self-quarantine for 14 days after they return. These are unique times, therefore public health is asking for measures unprecedented in recent memory. We are asking employers and schools to work with families as much as they are able to in order to make this recommendation possible,” said AZ Snyder, Pierce County Public Health Director and Health Officer.

Events and Gatherings

Pierce County Public Health also joins WI DHS in asking event organizers to cancel or postpone large gatherings and to use good judgement concerning smaller gatherings.

“Regarding mass gatherings, we are asking for all events over 250 people to be cancelled or postponed. For smaller events, I urge event organizers to consider the location and population involved before going forward with any event. Events in small, poorly ventilated spaces where

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people will be in close contact, especially if those people are vulnerable (the elderly, people with other medical conditions), should be carefully reconsidered,” said Snyder.

Community Risk

Pierce County Public Health continues to work closely with partners to address the situation as we obtain more information. “At this time, we are not able to identify the risk level to the general community. Because testing nationwide has been slow to scale-up, it is possible that the virus is spreading in communities in WI and has not yet been identified,” said Snyder.

In Wisconsin, please call 211 if you have questions for the health department. For Minnesota based cell phones (those without a 715 area code) please call 1-877-947-2211.

END



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