

Some Wisconsin counties and cities have continued or started new stay-at-home orders, but others have been rescinded

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In the immediate aftermath of the Wisconsin Supreme Court ending [Gov. Tony Evers' safer-at-home order \(/story/news/politics/2020/05/13/wisconsin-supreme-court-strikes-down-tony-evers-coronavirus-orders/5179205002/\)](/story/news/politics/2020/05/13/wisconsin-supreme-court-strikes-down-tony-evers-coronavirus-orders/5179205002/), local governments around the state began issuing their own measures.

Here is an updating roundup of counties and cities that have announced their own measures, or will be continuing to follow [Evers' order \(/story/news/local/milwaukee/2020/05/06/what-open-wisconsin-updates-bars-parks-salons-stores-coronavirus-covid/3048266001/\)](/story/news/local/milwaukee/2020/05/06/what-open-wisconsin-updates-bars-parks-salons-stores-coronavirus-covid/3048266001/).

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City of Appleton

UPDATE MAY 15: The city of Appleton has rescinded its stay-at-home order. Appleton initially signed an order that was designed to go into effect Thursday, May 14, and last until May 20.

"It is deeply frustrating and disappointing that the Legislature and governor will not work together, or even attempt to do so, in the interest of statewide health and clarity," Appleton mayor Jake Woodford said in a release, "The people of Appleton are frustrated and confused as a result of this inaction, and we are not going to wait for the State to act if they aren't going to anyway."

Brown County

UPDATE MAY 15: Brown County businesses no longer need to follow a local safer-at-home order that was keeping the county's restaurants and taverns closed.

Health Officer Anna Destree Friday afternoon cited a lack of a legal basis to impose the order in the county, which was an extension of restrictions Gov. Tony Evers had implemented, but that the state Supreme Court had overturned earlier this week.

County officials recommended that residents and visitors continue to follow the guidelines on a voluntary basis, and that businesses follow state-recommended guidelines to reopen safely.

Destree said the health department is considering other options, but didn't elaborate.

"Just because the order goes away doesn't mean there isn't a pandemic," she said at a 2 p.m. news conference.

Taverns in Brown County and around the state opened suddenly on Wednesday evening once Evers' order was overturned. But Destree issued a local order later that evening, and taverns did not reopen on Thursday.

City of De Pere

Within 90 minutes of Brown County rescinding its safer-at-home, De Pere lifted its order.

The city implemented the measure Thursday "to foster this unified approach" to the pandemic in the county. But Brown County's action Friday "left our city in a difficult position, as we do not want to position ourselves on an island in our region and create further inconsistency and confusion in the county and surrounding area," the city said in a news release.

The move allows De Pere businesses to reopen immediately.

"Sadly, it goes without saying that the city of De Pere and Brown County remain far from being out of the woods with COVID-19," said Deborah Armbruster, De Pere Public Health officer. "We hope our community will continue to take the threat of the virus seriously and take precautions to slow its spread as we enter this next phase of reopening our economy."

Calumet County

UPDATE MAY 15: Calumet County has rescinded its safer-at-home measure Friday, following in the footsteps of nearby Brown and Outagamie counties.

Central Wisconsin

Businesses in many central Wisconsin counties, including Clark, Portage, Marathon and Wood counties, may begin to open as local leaders decided not to issue safer-at-home orders at this time.

Health officials and local leaders in central Wisconsin instead are asking businesses and the general public to follow social-distancing guidelines and best practices from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. on protecting workers and customers, said Judy Burrows, public information officer for the Marathon County Health Department.

"Our local businesses have a huge responsibility right now to do things right and I hope they take it seriously," Burrows said.

Burrows said officials across central Wisconsin could still issue some sort of order in the event they see an increased spread of the virus. She said local leaders continue to have conversations about what to do next as they sift through the 160-page ruling from the state's highest court.

In Wood County, health officials created a toolkit for business leaders with information about how to safely reopen businesses.

Marquette County temporarily adopted the heretofore state provisions, but only until May 15.

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(https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2020/05/22/outdoor-summer-activities-do-wisconsin-during-coronavirus/5236382002/?utm_source=oembed&utm_medium=onsite&utm_campaign=storylines&utm_content=news&utm_term=5196268002)
- [Here's a list of everything in and around Milwaukee that's open for Memorial Day weekend, including beaches and libraries](https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2020/05/22/list-everything-open-and-around-milwaukee-weekend/5245082002/?utm_source=oembed&utm_medium=onsite&utm_campaign=storylines&utm_content=news&utm_term=5196268002) (https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2020/05/22/list-everything-open-and-around-milwaukee-weekend/5245082002/?utm_source=oembed&utm_medium=onsite&utm_campaign=storylines&utm_content=news&utm_term=5196268002)
- [Milwaukee bars and restaurants forced to stay shut as neighbors reopen](https://www.jsonline.com/story/entertainment/2020/05/22/milwaukee-bars-stay-closed-while-neighbors-tosa-shorewood-reopen/5239400002/?utm_source=oembed&utm_medium=onsite&utm_campaign=storylines&utm_content=news&utm_term=5196268002)
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- [What we've learned about how to protect yourself against coronavirus](https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2020/05/14/wisconsin-open-but-coronavirus-risk-high-how-protect-yourself/3120320001/?utm_source=oembed&utm_medium=onsite&utm_campaign=storylines&utm_content=news&utm_term=5196268002)
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Cudahy

The city of Cudahy, which initially joined forces with 17 other Milwaukee municipalities to extend some of the safer-at-home tenets, elected Friday to rescind those restrictions.

The reversal by Cudahy was in response to “differing and updated legal guidance,” the city said in a statement.

“The Supreme Court’s order caused a great deal of confusion and uncertainty that has left us and others across the state struggling to determine how to abide by the ruling while continuing to protect the public’s safety amid the COVID-19 pandemic,” Cudahy Mayor Tom Pavlic said in a statement. “With the varying guidance and more time to review best practices moving forward, together we’ve determined that we will withdraw our order and instead rely on guidance and recommendations, rather than requirements.”

Cudahy Health Officer Katie Leapk said: “COVID-19 remains a threat in our community and others. It is our hope that the public will continue to take the necessary precautions to slow its spread as we move forward with reopening.”

Dane County and Madison

UPDATED MAY 18: Dane County and the City of Madison announced a plan for reopening, including a “safe reopen” phase for businesses effective Tuesday, May 19.

The overall plan also includes monitoring nine different data points — in the categories of epidemiology, health care and public health — in anticipation of an overall reopening.

The “safe reopen” is the first of three phases that will occur and each will include fewer restrictions. The first phase includes information on 11 safe business practices.

Dane County Public Health anticipate spending at least two weeks — that's one COVID-19 incubation period — in each of the three phases "to assess the data and ensure the changes did not cause an unmanageable increase in cases. The metrics and criteria identified in Forward Dane will guide any decision making to move between phases."

Metrics will be updated weekly (<https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/forward-dane/metrics>).

The entire Dane County and City of Madison plan can be found online (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/public-health-announces-forward-dane-plan-and-releases-new-order-encouraging-businesses-to>).

Door County

Door County Public Health has elected to extend safer-at-home restrictions for at least six days.

"I'm very concerned about the health and well-being of our community," Public Health Manager Sue Powers said. "COVID doesn't care about politics."

Eau Claire County

Eau Claire County has issued the "COVID-19 Prevention and Control Order" that continues to bar gatherings of 10 people or more.

"We know that our community members, business owners, neighbors, and friends want to stay safe, and keep one another healthy," said Lieske Giese, Eau Claire City-County Health Department Director (<https://wgow.com/2020/05/14/just-in-eau-claire-county-announces-public-health-order/>). "We really view all of our businesses and community members as partners in this effort to slow the spread of disease in Eau Claire County."

Businesses are allowed to open with safe social-distancing practices.

Florence County

In the northeast part of the state, Florence County has begun adopting measures consistent with Phase 1 of the "Badger Bounceback Plan" ([https://www.florencecountywi.com/i/f/files/FCHD%20PH%20Order\(1\).pdf](https://www.florencecountywi.com/i/f/files/FCHD%20PH%20Order(1).pdf)) outlined by Gov. Tony Evers.

Hair salons and similar businesses can open with restrictions, and gatherings (including religious gatherings) are limited to 50 people or fewer.

Fond du Lac County

Fond du Lac County officials will not enforce health orders after the Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down Evers' safer-at-home order.

Although the governor's order is no longer active, Fond du Lac County Public Health Official Kim Mueller's order, which put in place many of the same restrictions on March 20 prior to the governor's order, would have remained in effect. However, Fond du Lac County Executive Allen Buechel said Thursday morning they will not enforce it.

Just after noon on Thursday, Mueller announced that she rescinded Fond du Lac County Public Health Order #1. This allows "barber/barbering and cosmetology, nail salons, massage therapy establishments and tattoo and body art studios to reopen," along with restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations and bars. Religious and funeral services can also begin again, according to a news release.

The county plans to look to Madison for guidance, where legislators and Evers are working to figure out next steps for the state.

In the meantime, the county plans to educate residents and businesses to make sure they understand that the coronavirus hasn't disappeared and they still need to follow guidelines on social distancing and frequently washing hands.

"There's no restriction on people opening businesses or having social interaction with more than 10 people, so we want everyone to consider the possible impact to themselves and everyone else by having the large groups not doing social distancing," Buechel said.

Mueller asked for businesses and community members to practice safety measures, which include: providing and encouraging "face coverings and personal protective equipment when necessary"; providing signage encourage good hand hygiene; disinfecting and cleaning "regularly touched surfaces"; screening employees and sending those who are sick home; and promoting working from home and telecommuting if it is possible.

"We need to come together as a community and ensure businesses have responsible practices in place to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus and protect our most vulnerable as best we can," Mueller said.

Green County

Just southwest of Madison, Green County will continue adopting the safer-at-home (<https://gcpublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GCPHD-Order-5-14-20.pdf>) measures before re-evaluating May 26.

Kenosha County

Kenosha County announced it was withdrawing its local safer-at-home action.

The move allows businesses in Kenosha County to reopen without risk of penalty or prosecution. Initially, the county had adopted a safer-at-home provision through May 26, consistent with the state order issued by Gov. Tony Evers.

Kenosha County Corporation Counsel Joseph Cardamone said guidance received from the Wisconsin Counties Association's legal arm late today suggested that the provision struck down by the State Supreme Court also applied to local health officers.

"The Supreme Court's order caused a great deal of confusion and uncertainty last night that left us and others across the state struggling to determine how to abide by the ruling while continuing to protect the public's safety amid the COVID-19 pandemic," Cardamone said. "Tonight, with varying guidance from the Wisconsin Counties Association and more time to review best practices moving forward, together we've determined that we will withdraw our order and instead view Safer-at Home as a series of best practices, rather than requirements."

Manitowoc County

UPDATE MAY 15: Manitowoc County has rescinded its safer-at-home measure Friday, following in the footsteps of nearby Brown County.

Residents are also urged to avoid crowds, maintain social distance of 6 feet or more, wear a cloth mask if they can, wash their hands frequently, cover coughs and sneezes and and stay home if they are feeling sick.

City of Menasha

Update May 15: The city of Menasha has lifted its safer-at-home order, effective as of 5 p.m. Friday.

The city decided to lift the order after data from the Badger Bounce Back reopening plan showed efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 are working in the city, according to a press release.

In place of the order, city officials released guidelines and recommended residents and businesses follow them to further slow the spread of the virus.

The health department will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and could issue another order if it becomes necessary in the future.

The city had previously planned to "adopt a phased approach to re-opening its economy and society, with each phase being incrementally less restrictive on businesses and individuals while protecting the public from COVID-19."

Menomonee Falls

According to village president Dave Glasgow, Menomonee Falls will not be issuing any restrictions now that the Supreme Court has ruled.

"We trust the businesses to develop and implement a reopening and safety plan that they believe works best for their employees and their customers," he said.

Menomonee Falls issued a news release saying the village will open the park facilities by the end of the workday Friday, May 15. The basketball hoops will be reinstalled where they were removed. The playgrounds will be reopened and the shelters and restrooms will be opened and operational.

Mequon

Mequon Mayor John Wirth has issued additional safety requirements for Mequon businesses that choose to open after the Supreme Court's May 13 decision to block the state's safer-at-home order.

Visited on 05/26/2020

Wirth said he believes Mequon businesses and residents have been responsible in preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus, but he felt additional restrictions were needed for businesses, such as restaurants, that tend to draw large numbers of people or necessitate close proximity, such as hair stylists.

"Although in my opinion the Safer at Home Order was unclear, inconsistent and overreached, and I agree with the Wisconsin Supreme Court that the Secretary-Designee of the Department of Health Services far exceeded her authority, social distancing and limitations on gatherings have slowed the spread of the virus, enabled our medical community to keep-up and saved lives," Wirth said.

Wirth also said he is concerned that residents from Milwaukee and other neighboring communities with more stringent public health restrictions will come to Mequon to patronize bars, restaurants and other stores.

"While under normal circumstances, Mequon businesses enjoy extra customers, and the City of Mequon cannot and should not preclude these customers, there is a significant likelihood of additional demand on our businesses, and extra customers increase the number of people within businesses resulting in turn in a higher likelihood of the spread of the virus," Wirth said.

Wirth said he consulted with a variety of Mequon leaders, business people and medical professionals in establishing the safety guidelines, which he said are meant to provide a bridge until the state Legislature establishes statewide standards.

The safety requirements in Wirth's proclamation will be enforced by the city's police, fire and building inspection departments.

Under Wirth's proclamation, Mequon bars, restaurants, retail stores, theaters, health clubs and fitness facilities can open, but they must post the maximum capacity allowed under the fire code.

Businesses are allowed to reach 40% of that capacity until May 25, 60% capacity from May 25 to May 31; 80% capacity from June 1 to June 7; and 100% capacity on June 8.

By gradually reopening businesses, Wirth said public health officials will have a chance to monitor the effect of the changes and allow for modifications if there is a spike in coronavirus cases.

Salons, barbers, nail salons and massage businesses must wear masks, leave at least 6 feet between workstations and disinfect all surfaces and tools between customers.

Playgrounds, park buildings and the municipal pool will remain closed. Parks will be opened to the public, but gatherings of more than 10 people are not allowed. Team or contact sports are also not allowed.

Businesses are encouraged to implement other practices, such as wearing face masks, social distancing and other safety precautions recommended by the Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department's "Blueprint for Reopening" plan.

City, county of Milwaukee

UPDATED May 15: *The city of Cudahy has rescinded its stay-at-home order, citing legal guidance. Cudahy was one of the 18 municipalities listed below.*

[Local orders \(/story/news/politics/2020/05/14/bars-restaurants-closed-under-milwaukee-county-municipalities-order/5189270002/\)](#) from the city of Milwaukee and 18 municipalities in suburban Milwaukee County have kept bars and restaurants closed to in-person service, and prohibit gatherings of more than nine people.

But the latest orders allow hair salons, barber shops, nail salons, day spas, electrolysis providers, waxing salons, eyebrow-care establishments, tattoo parlors, body art establishments and tanning facilities to open with social distancing and other protective measures in place.

Under the orders, retail shops, including shopping malls, may operate as long as they limit the number of individuals in a location, follow physical distancing and protective measure requirements, and follow safe business practices.

The municipalities include: the City of Milwaukee, Cudahy, Franklin, Greendale, Greenfield, Hales Corners, Oak Creek, the North Shore suburbs (Bayside, Brown Deer, Fox Point, Glendale, River Hills, Shorewood, and Whitefish Bay), South Milwaukee, St. Francis, Wauwatosa, West Allis and West Milwaukee.

There is no end date to Milwaukee's order; it will be in effect until it is "extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Commissioner," according to the order, [which can be read in full here \(https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6890535-Moving-Milwaukee-Forward.html\)](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6890535-Moving-Milwaukee-Forward.html).

It will remain in effect until criteria are "met and maintained and a new order is issued" for the local health plan for Milwaukee County, the order says.

The other 18 municipalities put an end date on their orders: May 21.

Village of Mukwonago

The village's state of emergency expired when the state's order was struck down.

"We won't be taking any action to restrict private entities from reopening or conducting business," said village administrator John Weidl. "The Village will have its own reopening plan for all Village facilities and spaces forthcoming."

City of Muskego

Muskego city officials said local businesses are free to open and operate as they choose within federal, state and local laws, but with a caveat.

"The risk of COVID-19 is still present in our community and as such we strongly encourage businesses to come up with a plan that follows the CDC social distancing guidelines during and in their operations," the city said in a news release late Thursday.

City officials added: "We hope that business owners will see the value to their customers, employees, the public and to themselves by conducting business in a safe manner. There are plenty of resources available on how businesses can move forward in a safe, profitable manner," noting information available through the WEDC and the Muskego Area Chamber of Commerce.

Muskego's outdoor recreation facilities are open, though again officials "strongly encourage" residents follow all social distancing guidelines. Public restroom facilities will be open by Monday, May 18.

City of New Berlin

Update May 16: Mayor David Ament released a statement noting that the City of New Berlin is not under a stay-at-home order, though its state of emergency has been extended through June 15.

"The declaration of a State of Emergency does NOT close any business, restrict any one from working or traveling, force anyone to stay at home or extend the Governor's Safer at Home Order(s) in any way," he wrote in the statement. "However to be eligible for any future reimbursements for expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic the City must be in a State of Emergency when the expenses are incurred."

The city is still incurring costs, Ament said, which is why he extended the state of emergency.

Earlier, Ament said New Berlin was evaluating recreation programming, playground use and more.

"Although we are aware of the recent Supreme Court decision striking down the Governor's Safer at Home Order, we also recognize that this pandemic is still ongoing. Waukesha County continues to experience sustained community transmission and New Berlin itself has seen an increase in cases," Ament said in a statement. "With this in mind, the City of New Berlin asks for your patience as we re-evaluate our Recreation programming, the use of our playgrounds, other city facilities, the library and our municipal court system. We will be working diligently to re-open City operations in a smart, safe and carefully considered manner."

Ament said he trusted that businesses choosing to re-open would do so responsibly and in accordance with health guidelines outlined by the CDC and DHS.

"Please keep in mind that the Supreme Court ruling was a decision based on the authority and the process of the Emergency Order itself," Ament said. "It was not a decision based upon its merit or its justification of the actual measures which were prescribed therein. Therefore, we will be looking forward to further information from the Governor and Legislative Offices regarding the management of this unprecedented Covid-19 situation."

Oconto County

Oconto County is not issuing an order to extend Safer at Home, or any other mandated restrictions. However, the Oconto County Health Officer said it continues to reserve the right and duty to take such action in the event that COVID-19 overwhelms the health care system or jeopardizes public health.

Outagamie County

UPDATE MAY 15: Outagamie County has rescinded its safer-at-home measure Friday, following in the footsteps of Appleton and nearby Brown County.

City of Racine

The city has extended [Evers' safer-at-home measures](#) ([/story/news/local/milwaukee/2020/05/06/what-open-wisconsin-updates-bars-parks-salons-stores-coronavirus-covid/3048266001/](#)) until May 26.

Racine plans to form its own guidelines for social and business interactions and will release information before May 26, public health administrator Dottie-Kay Bowersox said in a statement.

"I do not issue this order lightly, but we must protect ourselves, our families, and the other members of our community," she said. "A full and immediate lifting of the Safer At Home order would put all of us in danger of contracting the virus."

Rock County

Rock County's Public Health Department issued its own safer-at-home order on May 13 that incorporates the elements of the now-overturned state order and will be in place until May 26.

Sheboygan County

Sheboygan County officials said Thursday afternoon that they won't issue new rules to replace the state's safer-at-home order after the state Supreme Court struck that down Wednesday.

The county will release a plan to reopen that includes "strong guidance" to keep county residents safe, according to a news release.

"Our community has done a good job practicing social distancing, implementing best practices and taking precautions to keep people safe and our number of active COVID-19 cases in check," said County Administrator Adam Payne in the news release. "As a result, Sheboygan County will not be issuing an order to direct how businesses and organizations operate."

Sheboygan County's plan, called "Safe Restart Recommendations," was expected to be released Friday and include three phases — much as Gov. Tony Evers' plan to reopen Wisconsin did — based on criteria like the trajectories of case data, testing availability, contact tracing and health care resources.

South Milwaukee/St. Francis

The South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department [has issued a new health order](#) (<https://southmilwaukeeblog.com/2020/05/14/south-milwaukee-st-francis-health-department-issues-new-local-health-order-following-supreme-court-ruling/>) as part of a larger reopening plan in the works for the last two weeks following the state's Supreme Court ruling. The order, which is in effect immediately through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, May 21, allows most businesses to reopen but limiting capacity to 25% of normal.

"Salons, barber shops and playgrounds may also reopen, with restrictions," Mayor Erik Brooks wrote on his blog. "Restaurants and bars would remain closed except for takeout and delivery. Gatherings must be limited to nine or fewer people."

Washington/Ozaukee County

Ozaukee and Washington counties have not issued any additional stay-at-home orders in response to the Supreme Court's decision to block Evers' safer-at-home order.

As such, there are no restrictions to the public or businesses in either county.

Officials in both counties [released statements](#) (<http://www.co.washington.wi.us/inner.iml?mdl=news.mdl&ID=298>) encouraging residents to follow social distancing and other recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Business owners who want guidance on how to safely reopen should consult the Washington/Ozaukee Public Health Department ["Blueprint for Reopening"](#) (http://www.washozwi.gov/Portals/WashOzHealthDept/BlueprintFAQ_v_12_514.pdf) document released last month.

The blueprint has suggestions for maintaining social distancing, wearing face masks and disinfecting surfaces. These guidelines are not legally required for any business to reopen.

The blueprint recommends restaurants be limited to 50% capacity with tables spaced 6 feet apart. Condiments should be taken off the tables, and menus should either be sanitized or thrown away between customers.

Gyms and yoga studios should be restricted to 25% capacity, and employees and customers should be screened for symptoms, according to the guidelines. Surfaces should be disinfected regularly, and people should be encouraged to use face masks.

The blueprint plan states retail stores should be limited to 50% capacity. Churches should be limited to 50 people or 25% capacity, whichever is higher, according to the guidelines.

City of Waukesha

The City of Waukesha is not placing any mandated restrictions on businesses looking to reopen following the dismissal by the Wisconsin Supreme Court of Evers' safer-at-home order.

"The health and safety of all residents in our community remains a top priority," the city said in a new release Thursday. "The COVID-19 virus is still present in our community."

The city requested businesses follow [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation reopening guidelines \(https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines\)](https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines) and encouraged residents to adhere to safety standards from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We continue to ask that everyone take personal responsibility for stopping the spread of the virus," the release said.

City officials said they will continue to work closely with the Waukesha County Health Department on responding to and preventing the spread of the virus.

Winnebago County

Winnebago County on Friday rescinded its safer-at-home that was set to expire May 20.

"We are now counting on you more than ever to do your part to keep our families, neighbors and our city safe by continuing to remain at home, frequently washing your hands for 20 seconds, practicing social distancing, and limiting travel," the city of Oshkosh said.

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