

Department of Administration

March 13, 2020

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Calumet County Administrator has declared a Public Health Emergency
as COVID-19 Precautions Increase**

CHILTON – Effective immediately, County Administrator Todd M. Romenesko has declared a Public Health Emergency in Calumet County in an effort to guard against the spread of COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus.

As of this evening, there remain no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Calumet County. However, multiple cases have now been reported in neighboring counties, including Fond du Lac and Sheboygan, as well as other communities throughout the state. Because of this, county officials are proactively trying to minimize the effects of the virus locally.

Calumet County's action follows Governor Tony Evers recent statewide emergency declaration.

The County Administrator is recommending the following preventive guidelines for individuals, businesses and organizations:

- People at higher risk are encouraged to stay home and away from large groups of people as much as possible. Higher risk individuals include:
 - People 60 and over
 - People with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
 - People with weakened immune systems
- Visitors will be restricted from the Calumet County Jail.
- Per Wisconsin Department of Health Services, organizers of public gatherings with at least 250 people are recommended to cancel their events, however, many are adhering to a smaller threshold of 50 or more people to reduce opportunities for person-to-person virus transmission.
- Nonessential travel for all individuals is discouraged. Those planning trips should consider the risks versus the benefits, not only to themselves, but to more vulnerable population.

Calumet County Public Health is closely monitoring and responding to COVID-19 information provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION REGARDING COVID-19

When to seek medical evaluation and advice:

- Please call your healthcare provider if you experience symptoms including cough, fever, or other respiratory problems. Do not go to the emergency room; call ahead to let them know you need to come in with these specific symptoms and do not sit in the waiting room. Emergency rooms need to be able to serve those with the most critical needs.
- Call 911 if you are having a medical emergency.

In addition to the recommendations listed above, the CDC is advising the public to:

- Stay home when sick.
- Practice excellent personal hygiene habits, including handwashing, coughing into tissue or elbow, avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay six feet away from people who are ill, especially if you are 60 and older or have underlying health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, or a weakened immune system.
- Do not shake hands with anyone and avoid unnecessary contact.
- Stay informed as information is changing rapidly. Reliable sources include:
 - Calumet County: www.calumetcounty.org/COVID-19
 - Wisconsin Department of Health Services: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/

For further updates, follow Calumet County Emergency Management on Facebook and Twitter (@CalumetEM).

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Department of Administration

**DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
IN
CALUMET COUNTY**

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus now named Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was detected and has spread throughout many countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and the United States Department of Health and Human Services has declared a Public Health Emergency; and the Governor of the State of Wisconsin has declared a public health emergency, as defined in Section 323.02(16); and

WHEREAS, the existence of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Wisconsin, constitutes a condition within the County posing an imminent threat of disaster within the meaning of Chapter 323 of the Wisconsin Statutes that could impair medical care, health protection, and other critical systems of Calumet County; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 14 of the Calumet County Code of Ordinances and State Statute 323, empowers the County Administrator, and the Emergency Management Director in the absence of the County Administrator, or by majority of the County Board, to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of local emergency when said county is affected or likely to be affected by a public health emergency and/or extraordinary disturbance and the County Board is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Calumet County is responsible for the well-being of the public it serves and its employees and must undertake efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the emergency could cause Calumet County to expand, commit and exhaust all of its available resources; and could request state assistance and advises the State of Wisconsin of our emergency conditions;



NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED, by the County Administrator, that a local public health emergency now exists throughout Calumet County; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, by the County Administrator, acting under the powers granted pursuant to Sections 323.11 and 323.14 (4) of the Wisconsin Statutes, for and on behalf of the residents of Calumet County and its employees, will do whatever is necessary and expedient to protect the health and well-being of Calumet County, including the issuance of directives as may be required until the emergency no longer exists.

Dated this 13th day of March, 2020.

By:  _____

Todd M. Romenesko, Calumet County Administrator

NOTE: Under 323.14(4)(b), Stats., this proclamation shall be subject to ratification, alteration, modification or repeal by the governing body as soon as that body can meet, but the subsequent action taken by the governing body shall not affect the proper validity of this proclamation.