COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
COVID-19 Order Restricting Food and Beverage Sales in West Milwaukee
Version 1 Issued and Effective as of 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020

I. COVID-19 Order Restricting Food and Beverage Sales

Under the authority of Wis. Stat. § 252.03(2), the West Milwaukee Public Health Officer, under contract with the Health Department of West Allis pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 251.02(2)(a)2., in coordination with the Village of West Milwaukee Village President and the Milwaukee County Executive, order the following:

A. Effective as of 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, and continuing until further notice, food and beverage service is restricted as defined in section B.1 in the Village of West Milwaukee unless otherwise exempted in section B.2. This order builds on the restrictions in the “Order Prohibiting Mass Gatherings of 50 or More People”¹ issued by Governor Evers on March 16, 2020, to meet the needs of the Milwaukee metropolitan area, which is beginning to experience community transmission of COVID-19.

B. Food and Beverage Service Restrictions and Exemptions

1. Restrictions: Operators of the locations listed below shall comply with the identified restrictions until further notice, unless otherwise exempted in section B.2.
   i. Liquor, beer and wine sales in the Municipalities are restricted to carry-out sales and delivery only, to the extent permitted by law. No onsite consumption is permitted.
   ii. Food and beverage sales are restricted to carry-out and delivery only. No onsite consumption is permitted.

2. Exemptions to issued closures and guidance for operating facilities:
   i. Food service in health care facilities.
   ii. Food service and catering at weddings or funerals.²
   iii. Lines for carry-out must have an environment where patrons and staff maintain social distancing (six feet away from other people) whenever possible.
   iv. Everyone is urged to continue to wash hands, utilize hand sanitizer and practice proper respiratory etiquette (coughing into elbow, etc.).

C. The immediate implementation of this Order is necessary as patrons of bars and restaurants continue to gather in large number, in close proximity to each other, in closed spaces, thereby endangering the health of the staff and the patrons.

¹https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/03/16/file_attchments/1402207/DHS%20Order%20Mass%20Gatherings%20of%2050%20or%20More.pdf
²Weddings and funerals are subject to Governor Evers’ Order Prohibiting Mass Gatherings of 50 or More People; weddings and funerals may not have more than 50 people in a space, including food service workers.
D. The overriding goal of this Order is to minimize the in-person interaction which is the primary means of transmission. Restaurants and bars increase and encourage talking, touching, and other social interaction in an environment with a multitude of hard surfaces.

E. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, and best practices as currently known and available to protect vulnerable members of the public from avoidable risk of serious illness or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19. Although most people who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, people with mild symptoms and asymptomatic people with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk.

F. This Order will reduce the likelihood that many people will be exposed to COVID-19 at a single event, and will thereby slow the spread of COVID-19 within the Municipalities. By reducing the spread of COVID-19, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity.

G. This Order is issued in light of the existence of several cases of COVID-19 within Milwaukee County, including a significant and increasing number of assumed cases of community transmission nationwide.3

H. This Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in mass gatherings that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, such as: the increased likelihood that mass gatherings will attract people from broad geographic areas who could be infected; the prolonged time period in which large numbers of people are in close proximity and could be exposed to COVID-19; and the difficulty in tracing exposure when large numbers of people attend a single event.

IT IS SO ORDERED BY THE WEST MILWAUKEE HEALTH COMMISSIONER.

Robert Leischow

Robert Leischow, MPH
West Milwaukee Health Commissioner, under contract with the West Allis Health Department pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 251.02(2)(a)2.