

Washington Island Town Board

Public Statement regarding response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Last Updated: May 22, 2020

To Washington Island full-time residents, seasonal residents, families, businesses, and visitors:

The Town of Washington Island would like to thank everyone for their patience, support and compliance with all the various Federal, State, County and local guidelines through this phase of the pandemic. The response from each of you has been exemplary, and we deeply appreciate it.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the individuals who have been part of the various health care professional, business, volunteer and ‘grass-roots’ support networks that are part of our community. Each of you have provided the support necessary for people to comply with all the guidelines, and are a major part of the reason we have not had single incidence of the virus here on the Island. You are all shining examples of what makes Washington Island a great community. Thank you!

That being said, Coronavirus (COVID-19) has now been identified in most countries around the world, virtually all areas of the U.S., including northeastern Wisconsin, and Door County. It is an easily transmittable communicable disease spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person, and is especially dangerous to the elderly and those with compromised immune systems.

In response to this public health emergency, Executive Orders for “Safer at Home” were issued beginning on March 12, as well as the extension of those orders by Door County Public Health through May 20. Adaptation of those orders was the basis for the Town of Washington’s Resolution 2020-06 and Public Statement issued on March 20.

However, based on successful implementation of Safer at Home, the State of Wisconsin and Door County have allowed the Executive Orders and extensions thereof to sunset, thereby allowing people and businesses to begin to establish ‘new norms’ for getting back to business.

Furthermore, on May 19, Door County Public Health issued their guidelines and recommendations for “Let’s Safely Re-Open Door County”, and the Town of Washington is pleased and looking forward to beginning that process! With that in mind, basic recommendations for everyone include:

- **Physical distance, maintaining six (6) feet between people.**
- **Wear cloth face coverings (masks) when out in public.**
- **Practice good hand hygiene; wash your hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer.**
- **Clean/sanitize frequently touched surfaces.**
- **Avoid going to places where safety measures are not in place.**
- **If you are sick, stay home and call your healthcare provider about testing.**
- **Limit (unnecessary) travel to reduce the potential for virus transmission.**

The Town Board would also like to advise that for those individuals who are at high risk

and/or anyone who believes they may have come into contact with someone infected with the virus, please continue to stay at home as much as practicable (continue to work with the support networks mentioned above, especially WICHP @ 847-2108) and/or self-quarantine for 14 days as recommended by the CDC.

As further guidance from Door County Public Health, please consider the following for planning, scheduling or attending events and/or gatherings:

- **Low Risk – Staying at home**
- **Moderate Risk – Gatherings with fewer than 10 people**
- **High Risk – Gatherings of 10-50 people**
- **Not Advisable – Gatherings of more than 50 people**

Compliance with the Door County Public Health guidelines and recommendations is encouraged, but voluntary. However, non-compliance may have serious repercussions to the health and safety of our residents and visitors. If persistent complaints of non-compliance are substantiated, a targeted order by the Public Health Officer may be issued under *Sec.252.03, Wis. Stats.*

As you make plans to return to Door County and especially Washington Island, please continue to take the threat of the virus seriously and do your part to take the necessary precautions to protect the safety and health of our residents and other visitors. Your efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 are appreciated by those who live, work and enjoy Door County, and we look forward to seeing you on Washington Island this summer as your travel plans permit!

This update supersedes all previous updates and we will update this statement periodically as appropriate.

These websites provide guidelines for dealing with the current health situation:

Local – Town of Washington <https://washingtonisland-wi.gov/>

Washington Island Ferry Line <https://wisferry.com/>

Washington Island Community Health Program (WICHP)

<https://www.facebook.com/Washington-Island-Community-Health-Program-WICHP-334806146564241/>

Washington Island Police <https://washingtonisland-wi.gov/police-department/>

State - Wisconsin Department of Health & Human Services <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/>

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>

National – Centers for Disease Control & Prevention https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Findex.htm
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If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact:

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