



Washburn County Health Department
Washburn County Health and Human Services Department
222 Oak St. Spooner, WI, 54801 | Phone: 715-635-4400
co.washburn.wi.us



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 15, 2020

Contact: Cheri Nickell, Washburn County Health Officer

**WASHBURN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 ADVISORY #2
“SAFE SUMMER” TRAVEL ADVISORY**

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §252.03(1), the Washburn County Public Health Officer has issued a Travel Advisory due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and continued spread of the COVID-19 virus in Wisconsin and across the Nation:

1. This “Safe Summer” Travel Advisory replaces the Travel Advisory implemented by the Washburn County Health Department on March 23, 2020.
2. Washburn County has a large population of older adults and other high-risk individuals. These populations are at the highest risk of COVID-19; it is our priority to keep people in Washburn County healthy and safe.
3. On March 17, 2020, the Washburn County Board of Supervisors issued a countywide COVID-19 Emergency Declaration.
4. Due to continued community transmission of COVID-19 throughout the State and across the Nation, the Health Department recognizes that a Safe Summer travel season is a shared responsibility between permanent and seasonal residents, area visitors, municipalities, tourism industry, local businesses, and workplaces to prevent COVID-19 transmission.
5. Due to the very limited healthcare infrastructure in and around Washburn County, the Health Department is recommending that you consider your own health as well as the safety and well-being of vulnerable populations when traveling.
6. People who have seasonal homes in Washburn County and are returning for the summer season, you are encouraged to self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days. Please consider bringing enough supplies with you for 14 days to limit in-person visits to Washburn County establishments.
7. **The Health Department recommends the following when traveling:**
 - i. Check with local communities for area specific safety updates and closures.
 - ii. Check with local businesses or events you plan on attending **in advance** for updated changes in operation or new safety protocols in place.
 - iii. Respect local businesses and other patrons by following their safety protocols when visiting their establishments.
 - iv. Practice **enhanced** personal hygiene, including:
 - a. frequent hand washing;
 - b. wearing a mask when in public;
 - c. using hand sanitizer when hand washing is not available; and
 - d. disinfecting high-touch surfaces often.

- v. **DO NOT** travel when you or someone in your household is ill or exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
 - vi. Limit non-essential trips and limit the number of people participating in errands.
 - vii. Consider limitations in facilities (i.e. restrooms) open to the public during this time and plan accordingly.
 - viii. Continue to practice physical distancing and maintain six (6) feet from others whenever possible.
 - ix. Keep track of places you visit while traveling in case an outbreak of COVID-19 occurs in that area or you become ill and need to provide that information to health officials. Ways to do this include keeping a written list or taking photos of locations visited.
 - x. Avoided crowds and crowded areas when possible.
8. This is an ever-changing and very serious health situation and Washburn County needs to be diligent in its response.
9. This “Safe Summer” advisory provides recommendations and does not provide for enforcement via civil or criminal penalty.

For up-to-date information regarding COVID-19, follow the resources below:

Washburn County’s COVID-19 page: <https://www.co.washburn.wi.us/news/public-health/Coronavirus-Outbreak>

Washburn County Health. Dept. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WashburnCoHealthDept/>

Resources for residents, businesses, and families: <https://www.co.washburn.wi.us/news/emergency-management/COVID-19>

Questions and concerns can be directed to the Washburn County Health Department at 715-635-4400 or via email to health@co.washburn.wi.us

-END-