

Joint Local Business COVID-19 Briefing

May 01, 2020

City of Wisconsin Rapids | Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce | Wood County Health Department

Our recent participant survey showed that the majority of businesses would like an alternating schedule of newsletters and teleconferences, so we will be following that schedule going forward.

Next week's teleconference will also kick off our new timing—**Friday, May 8th, at 10am**—to help accommodate our restaurant businesses.

SURVEY

We still want to hear from you! Briefing participants are asked to [complete this short survey](#) by **Thursday, May 7th**, to help inform our May 8th teleconference briefing.

And THANK YOU for your resilience, and ongoing love and support of our shared community—YOU are what makes our community special!

COVID-19 Small Business Response Grant

The City of Wisconsin Rapids has approved and allocated \$100,000 dollars for a **COVID-19 Small Business Response Grant** to assist small businesses located within the city with mortgage and lease payments for March, April and May. The grant will be administered in partnership with the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce.

Grant submission will open on Monday, May 4, 2020 and close on Wednesday, May 6 at 4:30 pm. Note: if eligible applicant requests exceed the allocated fund amount, a random selection of all eligible applicants will occur until the funds are exhausted. Program details are available [here](#).

Chamber Updates

The Chamber has implemented several initiatives to help locally: [an interactive map of area businesses remaining open](#), Facebook campaigns to engage the community with businesses, and compiling the most current information on resources, tools, and videos for easy public access on their [website](#).

Resources

[WMC Back to Business Plan](#) | [WMC COVID-19 Update](#) | [Chamber Supports WMC Back to Business Plan](#)

Ongoing Updates & Information

Follow	Follow City of Wisconsin Rapids , Wood County Health Department and Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce on Facebook.
Call	Call 211 for general COVID-19 information and to be connected with community resources.
Register	Register for NIXLE alerts online at local.nixle.com/register or by texting your zip code to 888777.
View	View the COVID-19 pages on the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce and City of Wisconsin Rapids websites, and health alerts on the Wood County Health Department website.

**Questions?
Contact Us!**

Mayor's Office | ekent@wirapids.org | 715-421-8216

Angel Whitehead | president@wisconsinrapidschamber.com | 715-422-4861

Kristie Egge | krauter-egge@co.wood.wi.us | 715-421-8911

Health Department Updates

The Wood County Health Department is working with the National Guard to ramp up **testing in our area**; stay tuned for more to come out about this next week.

As of April 27th, there are expanded opportunities for **non-essential businesses**.

- All businesses may now do curbside drop-off and pick-up of goods and animals; this includes businesses such as dog groomers, small engine repair shops, and upholstery shops.
- The order also allows outdoor recreational rentals such as boats, golf carts, kayaks, ATVs, and other similar recreational vehicles.
- Additionally, automatic or self-service car washes can operate.
- All of these businesses must operate free of contact with customers by providing payment options online or over the phone, enact proper disinfecting practices, and must be able to be performed while maintaining physical distancing.

On May 1st, 2020, 34 **Wisconsin State Parks and Forests** reopen with special conditions.

- Before making your way to one of Wisconsin's beautiful spots, call 1-888-305-0398 to get your 2020 State Park pass, which will be required starting May 1.
- Camping, group camps and shelters will remain closed until May 26. More information on the reopening and remaining restrictions is available [here](#).

Remember the importance of **staying safe while engaging in outdoor activities**.

- Continue to maintain physical distancing at all times and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer and sanitize surfaces frequently touched by others. Purchase items you need in your essential shopping trip in your home community.

What does **home community** mean?

- Use your best judgement; stay in general areas, near where your kids go to school, where you grocery shop, and your place of worship.
- Strive to make no additional stops outside of your community, other than your destination.

Below are recommendations for those that live in a different community during the cold weather months and who are **now returning home**.

- It is recommended that individuals self-quarantine for 14 days.
- For essential needs, bring groceries with you or have someone stock your home with essentials, groceries, medications, etc. before your arrival.
- If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, difficulty breathing, chills, shortness of breath, or sore throat, contact your healthcare provider.

Thursday, April 30, 2020

WOOD COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

2	Total Positive Test Results
2	Individuals Recovered
0	Active Lab-Confirmed Cases
472	Negative Test Results
6,854	Positive Test Results in Wisconsin*
69,394	Negative Test Results in Wisconsin*
316	Deaths in Wisconsin*

 Wood County Health Department

*Wisconsin numbers are reported by Department of Health Services (DHS)

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