

As you are no doubt aware, the Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down the Safer at Home order yesterday. In effect, that means there are no statewide restrictions on citizens or businesses that exist as legally enforceable mandates. In response, several other communities in the region have issued local restrictions. The Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department (WOPHD) asks that the community voluntarily adopt the guidance and recommendations in our [Blueprint for Reopening](#). We trust that the citizens and businesses of Washington and Ozaukee counties will act responsibly and take the appropriate measures as we all continue to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

What actions is WOPHD taking going forward?

- WOPHD will continue to respond aggressively to COVID-19 cases in our community and protect our most vulnerable citizens.
- Throughout this pandemic, WOPHD has maintained the capacity to conduct contact tracing for all our COVID-19 cases. With restrictions lifted, the possibility for a surge in cases exists. WOPHD has expanded our contact tracing capacity to handle any surge in cases.
- We are continually working on ways to enhance our ability to test individuals that we identify as potential COVID-19 cases/exposures in our contact tracing process.
- Working with the business community has been a priority throughout the pandemic and we will continue to work closely with our partners.
- WOPHD will provide public health guidance for the public, businesses, and other organizations throughout our counties.

What is the Blueprint for Reopening?

- WOPHD has worked extensively with stakeholders in our community to produce a Blueprint for Reopening. This document has extensive guidance and mitigation measures for many facets of our community. Organizations should use these guidelines as to build their own policies for operations going forward. The Blueprint and FAQ document can be found here: <http://www.washozwi.gov/Services/Communicable-Disease/Blueprint-FAQ>.

With Safer at Home struck down, there has been significant talk about a “return to normal”. Unfortunately, COVID-19 is the normal that we are stuck with for the time being. When COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, WOPHD reminded our constituents that this declaration did not change the facts of the disease. The same is true now that Safer at Home is no longer in effect. COVID-19 will continue to spread and cause disruptions in our community. WOPHD would encourage consideration of the fact that COVID-19 is here, at the very least, for the immediate future. As organizations make their plans to reopen in some fashion, they should consider the sustainability of their efforts and ensure that they are prepared to execute these plans until no longer necessary.

Please know that WOPHD will happily work with any organization that needs assistance or guidance during this time. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need our help.

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