

Public Health



# Sauk County Public Health

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Reopening Sauk County on a Strong Three-Legged Stool

Our ability to safely reopen businesses and organizations without a large increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths relies on a three-pronged approach, much like a three-legged stool. The three legs of this approach are:

1. Individual Responsibility
2. Business & Organization Accountability
3. Public Health Mitigation

And like a 3-legged stool, if one leg is weak, there is risk of the entire stool failing to protect the person sitting on it.

### 1. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

The best thing residents can do to protect themselves against COVID-19 is to continue the preventive measures that have been so successful at limiting the spread of COVID through our community so far. These include (more on the [Sauk County Public Health website](#)):

- Maintain 6' physical distancing
- Wear a face covering in public
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Encourage your circle of friends and family to follow preventive practices to protect themselves, their families, and their community.
- Individuals should also observe and ask questions of businesses about what they are doing to help protect their staff and customers. If you don't feel safe with their answers, or what you see at the business seems risky to you, then you should leave and shop elsewhere
- Become an advocate for your favorite businesses and encourage them to adhere to [WEDC](#) and [SCPH](#) guidelines to protect their business, their customers, and their staff.
- Avoid groups >10 people
- Disinfect surfaces
- Wash hands frequently
- Stay home when sick
- Avoid touching your face
- Get tested if you have ANY symptoms

## 2. BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION ACCOUNTABILITY

Each and every business should be able to implement the [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation \(WEDC\)](#) and [Sauk County Public Health \(SCPH\)](#) guidelines before they open their doors to staff and customers, including:

- Develop flexible sick leave policies that encourage staying home when ill
  - Set aggressive infection control policies (hand washing, surface cleaning, contact barriers)
  - Source needed disinfectants, soap, sanitizer, and PPE if used
  - Ensure all operations support 6' physical distancing
  - Create a system to monitor any symptoms your employees may have
  - Cross train and prepare for absenteeism & reassign high-risk staff
  - Implement a system to limit and direct traffic in your business, including no individual groups more than 10 people
  - Ensure policies are consistent with public health guidance, state and federal law
  - Communicate your plan to employees and customers
- Businesses and organizations should publically post the steps they are taking to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and potential customers should pay attention to those actions
  - Businesses and organizations should check with their attorneys and insurance companies to evaluate their risks and coverage, especially if they choose not to follow public health guidance

## 3. PUBLIC HEALTH MITIGATION

SCPH will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation at all levels.

- New cases and outbreaks will be investigated quickly and the response will be swift to protect public health and safety
- SCPH may order additional disease control measures be taken either in an individual business or a broader area if an investigation indicates a need for that to protect public health and safety

“Successfully reopening our communities,” said Tim Lawther, Sauk County Health Officer, “requires individuals, businesses, and the public health system to take action to protect us all from unnecessary health risks. It will take each of us doing the right thing to keep the three-legged stool standing.”

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