



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Health Order: Temporary Closure of All Campgrounds Within Door County

It is the duty of the local health officers to promptly take all measures necessary to prevent, suppress, and control communicable diseases as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 252.03(1).

In my role as local health officer, I have determined that the immediate temporary closure of all campgrounds in Door County is reasonable and necessary to prevent, suppress, and control the COVID-19 virus consistent with Sec. 252.03, Wis. Stats. Although the Governor's Evers "Safer at Home" Order (Executive Order #12) lists campgrounds as essential there are additional factors that are unique to Door County. This determination is based on the following reasons, including but not limited to:

1. Door County has a large percentage of aged population, and data demonstrates that the aged population is particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus.
2. There are a large number of the campgrounds which draw thousands of people from inside and outside of Door County.
3. Camping in Door County encourages non-essential travel.
4. Camping allows for unmonitored congregating of groups greater than ten (10) people, which is prohibited under Governor Evers' "Safer at Home" Order (Executive Order #12).
5. Camping and related activities reduces the ability to properly social distance, especially in communal location in campgrounds (e.g. campsites and bathrooms).
6. The influx of campers to Door County will further tax already limited resources (e.g., health care system, groceries and other necessities) within Door County.

Seasonal campground site occupants who arrived on or before April 15, 2020 may be allowed to remain in place. Any seasonal site occupant that leaves the campground to return to his or her place of residence is not permitted to return to re-occupy the seasonal site. All seasonal site occupants that arrived on or before April 15, 2020 are encouraged to return to their residences.

This Health Order is effective April 15, 2020 and will remain in effect through May 15th or so long as Executive Order #12 is in effect, whichever is longer.

We are aware that the Frequently Asked Questions, which accompany Executive Order #12, lists campgrounds as an “Essential Business”. Governor Evers has since ordered the DNR to close 40 state parks, forests and recreational areas and the DNR has closed campgrounds in state parks and recreation areas through April 30th. These actions by the State are consistent with and support the need for this Health Order.

If you have questions or immediate needs related to COVID-19, call 2-1-1 or text COVID-19 to 211-211. For up-to-date information, please frequently monitor the Door County Government website <https://www.co.door.wi.gov/> Door County Public Health Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/doorcountypublichealth/> and the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow [@DHSWI on Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or DHS WI on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

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