

Resolution 20-16

Resolution Allowing Limited Reopening of Rice Lake Businesses & Local Government Offices

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus, now named COVID-19, was detected and has spread throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Evers declared a public health emergency to direct all resources needed to respond to and contain COVID-19 in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, Governor Evers enacted Order #12, Safer at Home Order, which was to remain in effect until 8 a.m. Friday, April 24, 2020, which shut down non-essential businesses, prevented non-essential travel and ordered people to stay at home to help prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2020, Governor Evers reviewed the statistics regarding the continued spread of the virus statewide and extended the effective timeframe of Order #12 until 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 26, 2020; and

WHEREAS, less densely populated areas have been under the same Safer at Home Order as have the large metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin statistics show the spread of COVID-19 has a direct relationship between the size of the community and the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, Barron County and the City of Rice Lake currently have no COVID-19 related positive cases, hospitalizations or fatalities; and

WHEREAS, the Safer at Home Order substantially impacts the economic stability of the Rice Lake business community and has and will have, a major negative impact on the citizens they serve; and

WHEREAS, the role of government is not only to protect the health and safety of its citizens, but also the welfare of its citizens, which includes the economic viability of the businesses and citizens that local governments serve; and

WHEREAS, the financial impact COVID-19 is having on businesses is dramatic and may result in many going out of business and their work force becoming unemployed; and

WHEREAS, the Rice Lake citizens' access to local government services is an important component of reopening the Rice Lake community; and

WHEREAS, it is time to issue reasonable rules that can allow, in a planned and regulated fashion, the reopening of businesses and local government offices in communities that continue to experience a low impact from COVID-19, including the City of Rice Lake.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Rice Lake that:

1. The City of Rice Lake adopts the "Hartford" plan, which is attached, for the reopening of businesses and local government offices in the City of Rice Lake, which will include using the CDC's guidance on social distancing and limited occupancy within a building.
2. The City of Rice Lake reopening plan will be designed to not only reopen businesses and local government offices, but to continue to protect the Rice Lake citizens.
3. The written plan shall be attached to and made a part of this Resolution #20-16.


Adopted this 28th day of April 2020

City of Rice Lake



Michael M. Diercks, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kathleen V. Morse, MMC/CMTW/WGPC
City Clerk-Treasurer

**Rice Lake Reopening Plan
Attachment to Resolution 20-16**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is not to suggest that any previously closed business should open or to suggest that any resident should leave their home during this Safer at Home Order imposed by the Governor. The purpose of this plan is to explain the City Council's suggestion to the Rice Lake Police Department and City of Rice Lake Staff regarding the enforcement of the Safer at Home Order regarding essential and nonessential businesses, public gatherings and public buildings. This plan is meant to serve as general guidance which allows residents and local businesses the freedom of choice to determine the safest method of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic moving forward.

RECOMMENDATION

The Rice Lake Police Department is duty bound to enforce all laws of the City and State of Wisconsin. The Common Council is recommending the Police Department use discretion in addressing any Safer at Home violations and investigate all complaints. If enforcement action is warranted, the Police Department has the option to request criminal charges through the Barron County District Attorney for prosecution. The Police Department may take local action to shut down businesses at their discretion.

BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITIES

The City recommends to businesses that chose to go against the State issued Safer at Home Order and open, they follow the directions of public health officials, including the Barron County Health Department, on the safest methods to reopen for business. The earliest date for this to take place would be April 30th to allow businesses to obtain materials and supplies to comply with this County Blueprint for Reopening for the safety of their staff and customers. **The City is strongly advising all businesses which choose to open to review their options with their insurance carrier, business consultant and any governing license oversight organizations for potential legal or financial liability.**

REOPENING OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS/FACILITIES: Rice Lake Public Library

- Effective Tuesday, April 28th, the Rice Lake Public Library started curbside pickup available via appointment only as approved by the Emergency Order #28.
- The Library Board has closed the library until further notice. The WI Safer at Home order #28 section 4b allows for certain services (examples include: virtual programming, curbside pick-up, books by mail), but all in-person services remain closed through May 26th.

RICE LAKE REOPENING PLAN

(These recommendations are taken from the Washington/Ozaukee Public Health Department Draft dated 4/21/20). Secondary Actions Decisions about opening a business or event should be made with consideration of how difficult it is to trace contacts of a positive case. (The more difficult to trace, the more risk is involved.)

1. Large Businesses/Corporations/Manufacturing - Promote telework options for nonessential employees, promote physical distancing in the workplace, and utilize disinfection guidelines per the CDC. - Consider special accommodations for personnel who are members of a vulnerable population.
2. Small Businesses (Bookstores, Florists, Garden Centers, etc.) - Limit the number of patrons in the store at one time. - Consider a daily log of individuals who enter. - Maintain physical distancing practices.
3. Retail Stores - Limit the number of patrons in the store at one time. - Maintain physical distancing practices.
4. Bars, Restaurants and Coffee Shops — Bars, Restaurants and Coffee Shops will be allowed to continue the same level of service as currently allowed including curbside pick-up and delivery.
No earlier than 5/11/20 — Restaurants, Bars and Coffee Shops will be allowed to offer dine in seating under the current guidelines.
 - No more than 8 people per table.
 - Tables arranged so that patrons at a given table are at least 6 feet from patrons at any other table.
 - Individuals seated at a bar should maintain 6-foot distance from each other.
5. Barbers, Hair, Nail Salons and Tattoo Parlors - Keep clients at least 6 feet from each other. Practice physical distancing practices. All barbers/stylists need to have personal protective equipment on at all times of service including face mask, shields and gloves.
6. Farmers Markets - Resume open-air Farmer's Markets. - Practice physical distancing. Communities should consider spreading vendors out over a larger area. It is advised to follow the direction of the UW-Extension Commercial Horticulture Department.
7. Large Venues (Theaters, Sporting Venues, Places of Worship, Museums) — Once the maximum occupancy order is lifted from the current 10, operate under physical distancing protocols not to exceed whatever the current occupancy limit is.
8. Similar considerations may need to be implemented in other sectors.