



May 18, 2020

To all that live, work, and play in the Cities of South Milwaukee and St. Francis:

As we continue to work our way back toward a safe re-opening of all businesses and recreational opportunities in our cities I want to thank all of you for your dedication to the South Milwaukee and St. Francis communities for doing your part to slow the spread of COVID-19.

This week, you will see a change in how the suburban health departments implement the phased local plan, shifting from orders and enforcement to guidance and personal responsibility. While the implementation approach has changed, the data and nature of the disease has not. It is not yet safe to fully reopen, and following health department guidance is the surest way to keep the community safe.

The current order, Order #1, issued by the Suburban Milwaukee Health Officers is set to expire at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2020. This means that all remaining businesses will be allowed to open, if they choose to, utilizing the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and WEDC's (Wisconsin Economic Development Commission's) Safe Business Practices and Physical Distancing and Protective Measures for staff and patrons.

To assist in determining the path to re-opening safely, business owners may reference the attached chart as guidance. Businesses may move through the phases as they feel confident that they can protect the health and safety of their staff and customers. We do not want local businesses and families to suffer financially, if a hasty reopening may cause a spike in cases. Please note that if your establishment is impacted by a COVID-19 outbreak, defined as two or more laboratory confirmed cases, you will be contacted by a local public health official. We will need to work with you to conduct an investigation, review your business practices and to identify contacts. This may result in an official order to comply with instituting safe practices and/or it may include temporary business closure.

Key indicators such as health care capacity, total tests performed, contact tracing and isolation capacity, and the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) will continue to be monitored and can be found on the Milwaukee County of Emergency Management website dashboard on the [Key Indicators tab](#). Public health officials will continue to monitor these key indicators to provide residents and businesses a realistic, data-driven approach to understanding the current COVID-19 situation and plan accordingly.

Additional guidance is available from the [Wisconsin Economic Development Commission](#).



The threat of COVID-19 is still very much alive in South Milwaukee and St. Francis, and throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. The South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department will continue to investigate COVID-19 disease in our community, with a focus on aggressive testing, case identification, and contact tracing.

We will continue to monitor the data and to communicate with you all as we work closely with business colleagues and community members to adhere to safe practices and to spot and contain any outbreaks.

It is up to each of us to play our part in protecting ourselves, our families, our customers, and our community moving forward. I am confident that we are all up to the challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacqueline M. Ove".

Jacqueline Ove, MS, BSN, RN
Public Health Administrator/Health Officer