

October 16, 2020

To all that live, work, and play in the City of Franklin:

As we continue to look forward to opening up more opportunities for our community to gather again, we need your help. Every county across the State is seeing an increase in disease burden and positivity rate and Franklin is no exception to this trend. Public gatherings in indoor and enclosed spaces, even for a single event, even in a private home, have led to the rapid spread of COVID-19 in our community.

At this time, we are calling on all businesses and residents in Franklin to do all they can to help prevent disease spread as Franklin has just passed into the **High Burden** level for the first time since mid-July. While businesses have been hit hard by limitations and restrictions on their business model, it is more important than ever to follow their COVID-19 safety plan to keep staff and patrons safe from disease spread. If businesses don't have a safety plan, they are encouraged to call Franklin Health Department for assistance in creating one. Resources are also available through the [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation](#) for COVID-19 recovery efforts and safety planning to help businesses navigate these uncertain times.

While schools have remained successfully open for the last 7 weeks, it has been necessary to quarantine full classrooms or up to 40 students due to one positive case of COVID-19. Fortunately, the schools continue to have mitigation protocols in place that have resulted in few students becoming ill due to attending school. The majority of the positive school-age cases have been the result of contact with another positive COVID-19 person outside of school. By working together as an entire community, we can continue to keep our schools open. We are also looking forward to increasing attendance at sporting events or looking into hosting some school-sponsored events as soon as we can do so safely.

Our residents and school families play an important role in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. While local and statewide recommendations do not specifically address gatherings at private residences, events like family cookouts, sleepovers, birthday parties, and friendly gatherings have driven infection rates up in Franklin. It is **strongly recommended** that individuals continue to follow the Physical Distancing and Protective Measures listed on the following page to reduce your risk of contracting and/or transmitting COVID-19 to others. Taking extra precautions now allows our schools to stay open, our businesses to remain open, and protect our most vulnerable neighbors and relatives from the effects of COVID-19.

Up to date information on COVID-19 statistics can be found on the dashboards for the following entities:

[City of Franklin](#) | [Franklin School District](#) | [Milwaukee County](#) | [Wisconsin](#)

We will continue to monitor local data and communicate with you as we work closely with business colleagues and community members to adhere to safe practices and to spot and contain any new cases and/or outbreaks of COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Courtney Day, RN, BSN
Director of Health and Human Services/Health Officer
City of Franklin Health Department



Dr. Judy Muller
District Administrator
Franklin Public Schools

(please see next page for physical distancing and protective measures to take)

Physical Distancing and Protective Measures

- Maintain physical distancing of six (6) feet between people not residing in a single living unit or household.
- Use of mask or cloth face covering. (See [Emergency Order # 1](#) for details. Masks are mandatory in indoor and enclosed spaces)
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or use hand sanitizer.
- Cover coughs or sneezes. (*into the sleeve or elbow, not hands*)
- Regularly clean high-touch surfaces.
- Avoid physical contact with those outside your household.
- Follow all other [public health recommendations](#) issued by the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.