



#####NEWS RELEASE#####

**CITY OF JEFFERSON NEWS RELEASE
WISCONSIN STATE SUPREME COURT DECISION
SAFER AT HOME ORDER STRUCK DOWN**

Date: May 14th, 2020

#####For Immediate Release#####

Contact: City Administrator Tim Freitag (EOC Director), City of Jefferson (920)674-7700
Police Chief Ken Pileggi (EOC Director), City of Jefferson (920)674-4407

On May 13th, 2020 the Wisconsin State Supreme Court struck down most of Wisconsin Governor Ever's Safer at Home Orders. The only exception was that the Court did not strike down that schools are to remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Based upon this decision, the City of Jefferson has taken the following actions:

1. The City of Jefferson will follow the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling pursuant to the laws of the State of Wisconsin which allows for a full re-opening of all businesses.
2. Law enforcement will no longer make any business notifications based upon the Supreme Courts ruling that the Safer at Home Order was deemed unlawful.
3. As of the time of this press release there is no replacement for the Safer at Home order by the Governor or Wisconsin State Legislature.

With that said, City of Jefferson Officials would like to remind citizens, businesses, and religious entities of the following:

1. The City of Jefferson will continue with procedures put in place regarding its employee precautions and interacting with the public. City services will re-open in a safe and methodical manner protecting all citizens and employees.
2. All citizens and business owners should recognize that the **Safer at Home Orders may have went away but the COVID-19 virus HAS NOT.**

3. The City of Jefferson Administration, in the strongest terms possible, encourages all citizens and businesses to continue proper social distancing following public health expert's advice and ensure appropriate precautions are taken to protect fellow citizens and customers.
4. The City of Jefferson will update this release when the Jefferson County Health Department releases guidelines regarding *mass gatherings which are strongly discouraged* at this point to prevent a mass spread of the virus amongst a large group of individuals.

With the re-opening of all businesses that have interior spaces, the City of Jefferson strongly recommends the following practices be put into place for employees:

- Practice proper social distancing including physical layouts of facilities such as distancing between dining tables, chairs, or lines for service.
- Provide and require all employees to wear masks and change gloves in between dealing with every customer. As a business owner it is your right to require this and prohibit anybody from entering without PPE.
- Encouraging all employees who may be sick to stay home, and if necessary, be tested for the COVID-19 virus.
- Sanitize all common touchpoint surfaces in between customers or as frequently as possible.
- Posts signs throughout your business encouraging employees and customers to frequently wash their hands, to wear face coverings, and to avoid touching their faces or mouths.
- Discouraging any human to human contact such as handshaking or hugs.
- Limiting small confined spaces to 10 persons at a time in one space. This is especially true in taverns and restaurants that have small capacity numbers.
- Limiting large gatherings to a maximum of 50 persons as long as proper social distancing can be safely achieved.
- Check with your insurer to see if there are any business insurance requirement needs you should be aware of in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak within your business.
- In church settings requiring face cover masks, removing common touch surfaces if unable to sanitize between services (books or paper documents, common Holy water). Limiting use to every other bench or pew and spacing attendees 6 feet apart unless families. Not placing the Communion on people tongues (place in hands). Many of these practices are already being utilized in City of Jefferson religious facilities. Compliments to all of our religious leaders who have done an OUTSTANDING job practicing these safety precautions.

We would strongly urge all business owners to visit the Wisconsin Economic Development website which provides very detailed guidelines for safely re-opening businesses to all Jefferson business owners:

<https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>

The City of Jefferson would like to thank all of our citizens and businesses for working together in partnership with not only the City, but the Jefferson County Health Department and the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services during a very difficult time period.

It is our belief your help and cooperation has limited the spread of this deadly virus not only within the City, but within our region.

In the strongest terms possible we implore each business to employ all of the practices as outlined in this news release, and as outlined in the WEDC and CDC websites to protect your businesses and religious facilities to help continue stemming the spread of this deadly virus.