



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19th, 2020

MANITOWOC, WI – Public Health Officer Mary Halada provided the following clarifications on the State of Wisconsin Emergency Order #5 prohibiting mass gatherings of 10 people or more to prevent the spread of COVID19. This order includes a number of exemptions, including for retail establishments as long as people present are not within arm’s length of one another for more than 10 minutes. **On the authority of Wis. Stat. § 252.03(2), the Manitowoc County Health Officer has ordered that hair salons, nail salons, and massage parlors must close immediately because of the high likelihood that patrons and employees will be within arm’s length for more than 10 minutes.**

The Manitowoc County Health Officer would like to clarify that **restaurants may only remain open for “take out,” drive through and delivery. Dining rooms must close and “take out” orders must be taken over the phone or online prior to the customer arriving to pick up their order.** Customers cannot order in-person or congregate inside the establishment while their order is being prepared. Customers also cannot self-dispense condiments.

The Manitowoc County Health Officer would also like to clarify that although grocery stores and gas stations may remain open, they must close all seating intended for consuming food, **cease self-service operations of salad bars, beverage dispensers, coffee dispensers, buffets, or any self-dispensing of unpackaged food or condiments.**

Finally, all bars are ordered closed under the State Order.

The public is highly encouraged to practice social distancing, wash or sanitize their hands frequently, sanitize cart handles, and cough into their upper arm. **Social distancing means only going out into public for ESSENTIAL PURPOSES and keeping a 6 foot distance between themselves and others when doing so. These actions are absolutely essential at this time to ensure we do not see a surge of COVID19 cases in the community that could overwhelm our hospitals.**

For more information, visit the Manitowoc County website at <http://www.manitowoccounty.org> or call the Manitowoc County Health Department at (920) 683-4155.