

Governor Evers Issued a Safer at Home Order: What does it mean for People with Disabilities?

This is a very brief summary of the stay at home order focusing specifically on those portions impacting people with disabilities. For more information, please read the order itself.

Governor Evers issued an order on March 24th in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency requiring all people to stay at home except for

- essential activities,
- to carry out essential government functions, to operate essential business and operations, and
- for essential travel.

This order goes into effect on March 25th at 8:00 am.

What does this mean for people with disabilities?

The order encourages people who are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick to stay home to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care. Individuals needing emergency medical care should call 911. Individuals are encouraged to call other businesses to make sure they are open. Many places in Wisconsin are still providing services but are doing as much business as possible by phone. If you do leave, the order requires people must stay 6 feet apart if they go out to avoid spreading COVID-19.

Individuals may leave their residence to obtain services at or to go to work at the following places if they are open:

- health care and medical services,
- human services,
- residential settings for people with disabilities, substance abuse, or mental illness,
- adult day care, adult day services, or developmental centers,
- offices that provide and help determine eligibility for basic needs including food, cash assistance, medical coverage, vocational services, or rehabilitation services,
- places of business that provide food, shelter, social services, or other necessities of life for individuals with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, or who are otherwise needy individuals.

The order makes clear that individuals may leave their homes when needed for:

- their health and safety,
- for necessary supplies and services, such as food, gas, household products, and those essential to maintain residences.
- To engage in outdoor activities,
- To take care of others, including people with disabilities

In addition to government, human services, and the health care services listed above, essential business can remain open, which include:

- Stores that sell food or beverages
- Restaurants that sell food for take-out or delivery
- Organizations that provide charitable and social services to individuals when providing food, shelter, social services, and other necessities of life for people with disabilities,
- Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation,
- Mail, post, delivery, and pick up services, and
- Transportation services

The full Safer at Home order issued by the Governor can be read here:
<http://evers.wi.gov/Documents/COVID19/EMO12-SaferAtHome.pdf>