

Mark Harris, County Executive
Doug Gieryn, Director/Health Officer

Office Hours: M-F 8:00am-4:30pm
Toll-Free: 800-250-3110
Fax: 920-232-3370

health@co.winnebago.wi.us
www.winnebagohealth.org



112 Otter Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54903-2808
Phone: 920-232-3000

211 N Commercial Street
Neenah, WI 54956
Phone: 920-727-2894

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June 10, 2020

Life Promotions
3000 N Pointer Rd
Appleton WI 54911

Dear Life Promotion Staff:

Thank you for reaching out to my office for guidance for your event. On March 12, 2020, Governor Tony Evers declared a public health emergency for the State of Wisconsin due to COVID-19. Correspondingly, City Manager Mark Rohloff has also declared a State of Emergency for the City of Oshkosh (part of your event grounds is in the City of Oshkosh). These orders are still in effect. As you know, Governor Evers stay at home order was overturned by the Wisconsin Supreme Court on May 13, 2020 and no further orders were put in place.

While the Governor's orders are no longer in effect, the COVID-19 virus is still widely circulating in our community and we continue to see positive cases daily both locally and statewide. At this time the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) does not advise large gatherings.

Public health experts agree that large gatherings of people in sustained, close contact greatly increases the risk for spread of the virus among those who attend the events, the community the events are held in and to the communities these individuals return to after the event. The communal nature of such events makes it especially challenging to accommodate the physical distancing and sanitation recommendations required to slow the spread of disease.

Given the state of COVID-19 transmission in Wisconsin, DHS and WCHD recommends you not engage in public or private gatherings of people that are not part of a single household or living unit. This recommendation will change as the state progresses through the [different phases of Wisconsin's roadmap outlining public health principles to decrease COVID-19 cases and death](#).

DHS provides criteria that the state will use to guide communities as people begin to interact. For example, to move out of the initial gating criteria and into Phase 1, the plan identifies that a sustained downward trajectory of individuals with symptoms, a sustained downward trajectory of positive cases as a percent of total tests, and a robust health system capacity should all be present. As the state progresses through each phase, the recommended maximum size of gatherings also increases. An example is an event with 250 or more people in attendance should only be held once the state has entered Phase 3 of reopening. We are currently not yet into Phase 1.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss our recommendations further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas D. Gieryn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" being the most prominent.

Doug Gieryn
Health Officer/Director
Winnebago County Health Department
920-232-3000 dgieryn@co.winnebago.wi.us