WHEREAS, on December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus was detected, a virus that causes a disease now named COVID-19, and it has spread throughout the world, including every state in the United States;

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President proclaimed a National Emergency in response to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, millions of people around the world have tested positive for COVID-19, including over 7.8 million people in the United States, and more than 162,000 people in Wisconsin which has recently been named a national “hot-spot” for rapid spread;

WHEREAS, as a novel disease with no certain immunity and no vaccination currently available, all of the population is at risk;

WHEREAS, physical contact and close proximity to other individuals may cause the rapid spread of COVID-19, thereby endangering the public and placing undue strain on the healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to use all available tools as is reasonable and necessary to stop the transmission of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is present throughout Wisconsin, including in Eau Claire County with 2,508 people testing positive and 9 deaths as of October 15th, 2020;

WHEREAS, every region of the State is in high activity level for COVID-19 with Eau Claire County being in very high activity level, and hospitalization of COVID positive people in the region increasing;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Law provides broad authority and power for local health officials to prevent, control, and suppress COVID-19;
WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 252.03 provides that every local health officer “shall promptly take all measures necessary to prevent, suppress and control communicable diseases”; and “may do what is reasonable and necessary for prevention and suppression of disease”; and “may forbid public gatherings when deemed necessary to control outbreaks or epidemics”;

WHEREAS, as required by Wis. Stat. § 252.03, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department investigated the circumstances of COVID-19 appearing locally and made a full report to the Eau Claire City-County Board of Health on April 22, 2020 and at all subsequent Board of Health meetings, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services via required electronic disease reporting;

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services State Epidemiologist and leadership provides communicable disease prevention and control and social distancing expectations informed by Wisconsin public health experts and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control;

WHEREAS, the Responding Together Eau Claire COVID-19 Progress Plan outlines the mitigation strategies and progression of these strategies necessary for the control of rapid spread of disease.

WHEREAS, based on the specific circumstances in Eau Claire County and my investigation of COVID-19 in Eau Claire County I have determined that these community-wide expectations are necessary to prevent the spread of, suppress, and control COVID-19 in Eau Claire County;

WHEREAS, these expectations are intended to replace the EAU CLAIRE CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTROL ORDER effective October 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2020 in order to best address the local conditions of COVID-19 in Eau Claire County;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Elizabeth Giese, director and health officer for all of Eau Claire County by the authority vested in me by the Laws of the State, including but not limited to Section 252.03 of the Wisconsin Statutes, state the following:

1. **Individual Expectations.** All individuals are expected to meet the following public health and safety practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These health and safety practices are the best ways to prevent spread of COVID-19.
• Maintain physical distance of at least six (6) feet from individuals not residing in your household.

• Wear properly fitting face coverings whenever in a room or other enclosed space with individuals that are not within their household, unless face covering will be medically compromising.

• Avoid gatherings of 10 or more individuals. Know the names and contact information for any individuals you are choosing to spend time with.

• Stay home when sick with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and get tested.

• Cooperate with any public health investigation as a COVID-19 case or close contact including isolation and quarantine when appropriate.

• Minimize travel outside of your home or place of residence as much as feasible. If you travel and engage in activities that compromise physical distance, limit contact with non-household members (especially those that may be at elevated risk for severe symptoms if they become infected) for 14 days after travel and monitor symptoms closely.

• Follow all public health orders or recommendations issued by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

2. Expectations for Indoor and Outdoor Public Spaces and Buildings. All public spaces and public buildings, including but not limited to schools and childcare, athletic spaces, businesses, government, and service providers, are expected to meet the following public health and safety practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

• Implement measures to assure 6 feet can be maintained between individuals on the premises including but not limited to employees, students, customers, and members of the public.

• Limit the number of people on the premises, both indoors and outdoors to meet this 6 feet physical distance expectation. This includes maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between households/parties in spaces with fixed seating (e.g. dining tables, bars, waiting areas, workstations, desks etc.) This shall not be construed to expect physical distancing between individuals from the same household.

• Reduce overall occupancy by 50%.

• Implement policies to assure the use of face coverings by employees, students, customers and
visitors in indoor spaces and buildings, other enclosed spaces, and in outdoor situations in which physical distancing cannot be maintained.

- Establish policies to support that any activity that, by its very nature, promotes prolonged close contact (e.g. dancing, close contact sports, some types of performances) not be held due to the inability to assure that 6 feet distance is maintained and the higher risk of COVID-19 spread. If held, it is expected that these activities be specifically organized in a way and with a deliberate design that decreases risks. Additionally, strategies are expected to be in place that assure a rapid response (contact tracing, testing, isolation, quarantine, messaging) for potential outbreaks which are more likely to happen in these activities.

- Increase standards of facility cleaning and disinfection to limit worker and patron exposure to COVID-19, as well as adopting protocols to clean and disinfect in the event of a positive COVID-19 case in the workplace.

- Adopt policies to actively screen and prevent workers, students, customers, visitors, and guests from entering the premises if they display COVID-19-like symptoms or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

- Establish lines to regulate entry and exit, as well as other congregating locations, with markings for individuals to enable them to stand at least six feet apart from one another while waiting. Stores and other service providers should also use alternatives to lines, including allowing customers to wait in their cars for a text message or phone call and scheduling pick-ups or scheduled entries into the store.

- Cooperate with public health investigations related to COVID-19 confirmed or suspected cases related to the entity or business operations, including excluding employees, students, others based on public health recommendations and assisting public health with identifying and contacting contacts of cases.

- To the greatest extent feasible, use technology to avoid meeting in person, including virtual meetings, teleconference, and remote work.

- Review and, as much as possible, adhere to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation guidelines on safe business practices, available here: https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/ and other applicable State of Wisconsin regulatory, industry-specific guidance.
3. **Additional Expectations for One-on-One Personal Services.** Services that may require closer than 6 feet of contact are expected to meet all of paragraph 2 above as well as the following.

- Obtain full contact information for all clients (to include full name, address, e-mail address, and phone number) with which the provider has had close contact so as to assist in any necessary contact tracing.
- Have providers wear a face shield in addition to face coverings.
- Implement measures to maximize distance and minimize duration of contact among clients in waiting rooms and workstations.

4. **Additional expectations for Mass Transportation.** Operators of mass transportation are expected to meet paragraph 2 above and when 6 feet of physical distance cannot be maintained are additionally expected to do the following:

- Buses with set riders, such as those on a school bus route, are expected to have assigned seats and daily attendance taken.
- Operators of mass transportation are expected to actively screen riders regarding COVID-19-like symptoms prior to boarding.

5. **Additional Expectations for Gatherings.** Gatherings are defined as planned or spontaneous events that occur with a number of people in attendance in a defined location for a prolonged period of time. Examples may include such events as a concert, festival, conference, sporting event, celebration, or other public or private social event. Large events are not recommended for any reason.

- Any public or private gathering is expected to be less than 25 people.
- The indoor gathering of more than one household for socialization purposes is strongly discouraged.
- Constitutionally protected gatherings are encouraged to follow all COVID-19 physical distancing and face covering prevention strategies.
- Assigned or fixed seating in accordance with 6 feet physical distancing is strongly encouraged during any gathering.
• Organizers of gatherings are expected to document contact information of attendees for contact tracing purposes, to include each attendee’s name, address, e-mail address, and phone number.

• Organizers of gatherings are expected to actively screen and prevent attendance of individuals, including staff, volunteers, and attendees, who have symptoms of COVID-19.

6. **Follow Other Applicable Guidelines.** All individuals, organizations, schools, businesses, government bodies, and any other group are expected to follow:

   • DHS guidelines located here: [https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm) and [https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/employers.htm](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/employers.htm);


   • Other applicable State of Wisconsin regulatory and/or industry-specific guidance.

7. **Elderly people and those who are vulnerable as a result of underlying health conditions should take additional precautions.** People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are urged to stay in their home or residence to the extent possible except as necessary to meet basic needs and seek medical care.

8. **Duration.** These expectations are effective immediately and shall remain in effect until superseding guidance is issued based on public health science and available data. Data shall be regularly examined to ensure the most salient recommendations are available to the public.

   *Elizabeth Giese*

   Date

   Eau Claire City-County Health Department