



Collaborating with
Community Partners to
enhance a healthy
thriving Rock County...

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Visit us at:
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Read All About It!

Health Protection in Restaurants & Retail Eating Establishments

Spring 2021

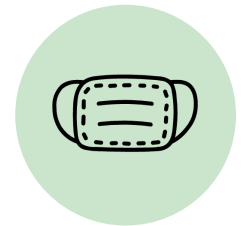
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While nearly everyone faced tremendous hardships throughout the last year as the COVID-19 pandemic tore across the country, food establishments were hit especially hard. Having to overcome supply shortages, employee loss, shifts in customer expectations, and various rule and regulation changes, many restaurants struggled. As we enter Spring and a new phase in pandemic recovery, we want to applaud you for your resiliency and the creative solutions you implemented to overcome these challenges. We also sincerely thank you for your efforts and the sacrifices you made to help keep our community safe.

The following are the recommended COVID-19 practices as of April 1st, 2021 and are subject to change:

Face Coverings

Face Coverings are still currently required in public places until May 5th by [local order](#). Continue to require face coverings for both employees and customers visiting your establishment.



Sick Employees

Ensure sick employees are excluded from work to prevent the transmission of not only COVID-19, but also other diseases through food. A Person in Charge at a food establishment is required to monitor employee's health and exclude sick employees. See WI Food Code Section [2-201.11](#) for a refresher on the requirements.



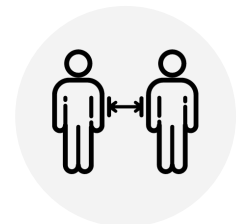
Cleaning & Sanitizing

Continue to frequently clean and sanitize surfaces. Ensure your sanitizer is EPA approved for use on food contact surfaces. Sanitizers not approved for food contact areas can contaminate food and harm customers. Check product labels, ask suppliers, or consult with your inspector if you are unsure.



Social Distancing

Limit dining capacity while maintaining separation between tables to appropriately socially distance your customers and prevent COVID-19 transmission. See the [Reopening Guidelines](#) on our website for capacity recommendations and links to relevant resources.



As we continue on the path of recovery, it is important to remember that we must continue implementing COVID-19 prevention practices until community vaccination is complete and cases are firmly under control.

COVID-19 Vaccine

Vaccine Eligibility

Starting April 5th, all individuals ages 16 and older will be eligible to receive the vaccine.

Below are the current eligible groups in priority order:

- Frontline health care personnel
- Residents and staff in skilled nursing and long term care facilities
- Police and fire personnel, correctional staff
- Adults age 65 and older
- Educators and child care
- Individuals enrolled in Medicaid long-term care programs
- Some public facing essential workers
- Non-frontline essential health care personnel
- Congregate living facility staff and residents
- Individuals with certain medical conditions
- All individuals ages 16 and older



While eligibility has expanded, vaccine providers may still prioritize previously eligible groups before newer groups depending on vaccine availability.

Please visit this link for more information on vaccine eligibility guidelines:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm>

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I get the vaccine if I've already had COVID-19?

Yes, all eligible groups should get the vaccine. While rare, it is possible that you could be infected with the virus again. The vaccine offers sustained immunity from the virus.

Should I still wear a mask after I've been vaccinated?

Yes, it is still important to take preventative measures after being fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Until more is known, fully vaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks and socially distance.

Can I get the vaccine if I am currently sick with COVID-19?

No, you should wait to be vaccinated until you have recovered from your illness and finished your isolation period.

When can my child be vaccinated?

There are currently no vaccines authorized for use in children under age 12. Clinical trials have not yet started for infants, toddlers, or kids under age 12.

Please visit the following resources for more information on the COVID-19 vaccine:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm>



Vaccine Registration

There are numerous ways to register for a COVID-19 vaccine. See below for details on how to register:

- Contact your local pharmacy
- If you have a healthcare provider, watch for communications from your health system or check their website for more information
- Register for the Wisconsin DHS Community Vaccination Site in Rock County at Blackhawk Technical College through the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Registry
 - Go to vaccinate.wi.gov, OR
 - Call 844 684-1064
- Check the Rock County Public Health Department website for information
 - Go to www.co.rock.wi.us/publichealth and click on the Coronavirus link, OR
 - Call 608-352-6727 for assistance



Community Health Assessment

The Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) is looking for help reaching people in our community through a Community Health Assessment (CHA). HEAR is conducting a CHA to better understand the current health needs of those living in Rock County.

This short online survey asks about your personal and community health confidentially. This year's survey has a special focus on the social determinants of health, or simply the conditions that shape our health on a day to day basis. Social determinants of health include factors like income/financial status, education, neighborhood and physical environment, employment, social support networks, and access to health care. Addressing these determinants through your feedback is crucial in improving the overall health of our community!

Please complete the survey by **April 16th, 2021** through the link below.

Once completed, the results of this survey, along with other data collected, will be made widely available to the public. The results will be used to inform which health priorities are selected for the next Community Health Improvement Plan.

We invite anyone who lives, works, and plays in Rock County to take the CHA survey at:

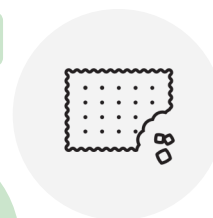
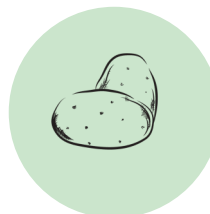
English: <https://bit.ly/3tEFxnn>

Spanish: <https://bit.ly/3p4AVnl>



Fun Food Facts

- Fruit snacks and cars are coated in the same type of wax
- Potatoes can absorb and reflect Wi-fi signals
- Crackers will give you cavities faster than candy



Food Code Changes

Several significant changes to WI Admin Code ATCP 75 and the Appendix (WI Food Code) went into effect on October 26th, 2020. See below for a few key items:

The terms Retail Food Establishment and Restaurant have been replaced with:

- “Retail food establishments - not serving meals”
- “Retail food establishments - serving meals”

The new terminology will be reflected on permits & inspection reports moving forward.



Changes to food establishment definitions impacted what establishments are required to have a Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM). “Retail food establishments - not serving meals” that were previously exempt may now be required to have a CFPM on staff. This will be evaluated at the next routine inspection.

Dogs are now allowed in outdoor dining areas without a variance IF the requirements are strictly followed under new food code section 6-501.115(D). Please consult with your inspector to verify compliance before adding this option to your establishment.



Food establishments must have written procedures to address proper clean up of vomiting and diarrheal events to minimize spread of contamination under new food code section 2-501.11. See the link below for two new factsheets that can be used as a temporary solution to meet this requirement until you can develop a protocol specific to your facility. Your inspector will be asking you for your procedure during your next inspection.

Wisconsin Food Code website -

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/FoodCode.aspx

- Information on code changes, including fact sheets and videos
- Link to the WI Food Code and Food Code Fact Sheet



2021-2022 PERMIT RENEWALS

Renewal notices for the 2021-2022 permit year will be mailed out in early May. Please note that there will **NOT** be a renewal extension like last year.

Fees are due by **June 30th, 2021**

- If received July 1st through July 10th - \$80 late fee
- If received July 11th through July 15th - \$100 late fee (total)
- Facilities that do not renew by July 15th are subject to closure.

