

**\*\*All present are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the City's Core Values\*\***



## OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department, Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation, or sub-unit thereof.

**Special Meeting PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
Date/Time: **Thursday, June 4, 2020 @ 4:00 pm**  
Location: **City Hall (407 Grant Street) - Council Chambers**  
Members: Lisa Rasmussen, Dawn Herbst, Becky McElhane, Pat Peckham, Jim Wadinski

### AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION / ACTION

- 1 Discussion and possible action on opening Wausau's public pools on July 1.

Adjourn

**\*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being held in person and via teleconference. Members of the media and the public may attend in person, subject to the social distancing rules of maintaining at least 6 feet apart from other individuals, or by calling 1-408-418-9388. The Access Code is: 146 040 6180. The Password is: v9eMvASkJ86**

Individuals appearing in person will either be seated in the Council Chambers or an overflow room, subject to the social distancing rules. Space available will be on a first come, first served basis. All public participants' phones will be muted during the meeting. Members of the public who do not wish to appear in person may view the meeting live over the internet by <https://waam.viebit.com/?folder=ALL>, on the City of Wausau's YouTube Channel <http://www.tinyurl.com/WAAMedia>, live by cable TV, Channel 981, and a video is available in its entirety and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/WausauCityCouncil>. Any person wishing to offer public comment who does not appear in person to do so, may e-mail [leslie.kremer@ci.wausau.wi.us](mailto:leslie.kremer@ci.wausau.wi.us) with "PH&S public comment" in the subject line prior to the meeting start. All public comment, either by email or in person, will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Chair.

**This Notice was posted at City Hall and faxed to the Daily Herald newsroom on 6/02/20 @ 12:00 PM**

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the ADA Coordinator at (715) 261-6590 or [ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us](mailto:ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us) to discuss your accessibility needs. We ask your request be provided a minimum of 72 hours before the scheduled event or meeting. If a request is made less than 72 hours before the event the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.

**DRAFT**

**CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Date/Time: June 1, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.      Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

Members Present: Tom Kilian, Lou Larson, Tom Neal, Pat Peckham (c), Sarah Watson

Others Present: Marcus Aumann-Assistant Director of Community Services, Katie Rosenberg-Mayor,  
Dale Grosskurth- Health Department Environmental Health and Safety Director, Anne Jacobson-City  
Attorney

**Motion** by Kilian to close the pools for this summer season. Motion died for lack of a second. **Motion** by Larson, second by Neal to open the three pools this season. Neal wanted ample staff coverage to especially help with social distancing issues and also wanted the item to go to the Public Health and Safety Committee. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Neal, second by Watson to amend the proposal to open two pools instead of three pools. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-2 with Peckham, Watson and Neal voting yes and Kilian and Larson voting no. Polley discussed how the two pools would operate. Vote was then taken on the motion as amended to open two of the three pools with staff to decide which two and a request for Public Health and Safety to hold a special meeting this week to also weigh in with a recommendation to City Council. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-1 with Kilian voting no.



## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

# Guidance for Administrators in Parks and Recreational Facilities

Parks, trails, and open spaces can provide opportunities for physical activity while also providing opportunities for respite, health, and wellness. Individuals are encouraged to use parks, trails, and open spaces safely as they are able while following current guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The following offers guidance for the use and administration of local, state, and national parks.

## Post information to promote everyday preventive actions.

Park administrators should consider displaying posters and signs throughout the park to frequently remind visitors to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These messages may include information about:

- Staying home if you are sick or do not feel well, and what to do if you're sick or feel ill.
- Using social distancing and maintaining at least six feet between individuals in all areas of the park.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash.
- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

## Maintain restrooms that remain open. Ensure they have functional toilets, clean and disinfected surfaces, and handwashing supplies.

If possible, restrooms should remain open if a park remains open for public visitation. If restrooms will be closed, notify visitors ahead of time so they can prepare appropriately. Ensure that open restrooms are:

- Operational with functional toilets.
- Cleaned and disinfected regularly, particularly high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs, and light switches. Clean and disinfect restrooms daily or more often if possible. The EPA-registered household disinfectants listed here are recommended. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep products away from children.
- Regularly stocked with supplies for handwashing, including soap and materials for drying hands or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Oftentimes restroom facilities without running water, such as portable toilets and vault toilets, are not stocked with hand hygiene products. Encourage visitors to be prepared to bring their own hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for use in these facilities.

## Keep swimming pools properly cleaned and disinfected.

Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (with chlorine or bromine) of swimming pools should kill the virus that causes COVID-19.

- Maintain proper disinfectant levels (1–10 parts per million free chlorine or 3–8 ppm bromine) and pH (7.2–8).
- CDC's Model Aquatic Health Code has more recommendations to prevent illness and injuries at public pools in parks.

## Be prepared to cancel or postpone large events and gatherings.

- Monitor and adhere to guidelines issued at the national, state, and local levels related to limiting the size of gatherings.
- Continually assess current conditions and engage with the National Park Service, state, and local public health officials when deciding whether to postpone, cancel, or significantly reduce the number of attendees (if possible) for mass gatherings.
- Consider CDC guidance and White House guidance [\[link\]](#) as you make decisions about whether to proceed with, postpone, or cancel an event.

## Make sure people are social distancing in popular areas of the park.

During periods of sustained community transmission, park administrators should:

- Monitor areas where people are likely to gather and consider temporary closure to support social distancing practices. These areas might include sports fields, playgrounds, skateparks, basketball courts, tennis courts, and picnic areas. In the event of facility closures, park administrators might want to place physical barriers in these areas and post signs communicating that the area is closed.
- Post signs discouraging groups from gathering in larger numbers than are currently recommended or allowed.

If organized sports activity has been suspended within the park, communicate with sports team coaches that unofficial sports practices are also prohibited within the park.

## Postpone or cancel organized activities and sports.

In general, most organized activities and sports such as basketball, baseball, soccer, and football that are held on park fields, open areas, and courts are not recommended during times in which individuals are encouraged or required to practice social distancing. These activities and sports typically require coaches and athletes who are not from the same household or living unit to be in close proximity, which increases their potential for exposure to COVID-19.

Park administrators should monitor directives issued at the national, state, and local levels related to limiting the size of gatherings. These directives can inform decisions about limiting participation for those sports and activities that exceed the maximum number allowed. Until local public health officials have coordinated with organizers to determine if/when it is safe to participate in such activities, all should be postponed or canceled.

## Use flexible sick-leave and telework policies, especially for staff at higher risk for severe illness.

- Be as flexible as possible with staff attendance and sick-leave policies.
- Remind staff to stay at home if they are sick.
- Identify staff whose duties would allow them to work from home and encourage teleworking when possible.
- Consider offering revised duties to staff who are at higher risk of severe illness with COVID-19.

## Keep your park staff informed about COVID-19 and preventive actions.

When there is ongoing transmission of COVID-19 in the community where the park is located, consider implementing the following strategies:

- Provide staff with up-to-date information about COVID-19 and park policies on a regular basis.
- Communicate to park staff the importance of practicing healthy hygiene habits such as washing hands often, covering coughs and sneezes, and social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- If staff develop a fever, cough, or shortness of breath while at work, have them immediately put on a face mask (if available), isolate them, and have them return home from the park as soon as possible, and ask them to follow CDC-recommended steps for persons who are ill with COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a staff member has a confirmed COVID-19 infection, inform other staff about their possible exposure to the virus, while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act; see Public Health Recommendations for People in U.S. Communities Exposed to a Person with Known or Suspected COVID-19, other than Health Workers or other Critical Infrastructure Workers.

## Review CDC's guidance for businesses and employers.

- Review CDC's guidance for businesses and employers to identify additional strategies to protect park staff during an outbreak of COVID-19.
- For additional questions or guidance, contact your state or local health department public health officials and in the case of the National Park Service, contact public health officials in the Office of Public Health.

Page last reviewed: April 10, 2020

Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases



## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

### Visiting Parks and Recreational Facilities

#### Protect Yourself and Others from COVID-19

Staying physically active is one of the best ways to keep your mind and body healthy. In many areas, people can visit parks, trails, and open spaces as a way to relieve stress, get some fresh air and vitamin D, stay active, and safely connect with others.

**Know before you go:** While these facilities and areas can offer health benefits, it is important that you follow the steps below to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

#### DO

- ✓ Visit parks that are close to your home
- ✓ Prepare before you visit
- ✓ Stay at least 6 feet away from others (“social distancing”) and take other steps to prevent COVID-19
- ✓ Play it safe around and in swimming pools. Keep space between yourself and others

#### DON'T

- ✗ Visit parks if you are sick or were recently exposed to COVID-19
- ✗ Visit crowded parks
- ✗ Use playgrounds
- ✗ Participate in organized activities or sports



#### Don't: Visit parks if you are sick or were recently exposed to COVID-19

- If you are sick with COVID-19, were recently exposed (within 14 days) to someone with COVID-19, or just don't feel well, do not visit public areas including parks or recreational facilities.
- Follow recommended steps to take if you are sick.



#### Do: Visit parks that are close to your home

Traveling long distances to visit a park may contribute to the spread of COVID-19 as:

- Most travel requires you to stop along the way or be in close contact with others.
- Travel may also expose you to surfaces contaminated with the virus that causes COVID-19.



#### Don't: Visit crowded parks

- Do not visit parks where you cannot stay at least 6 feet away from others at all times.



## Do: Prepare before you visit

### State or local parks

State and local authorities will decide whether parks and other recreational facilities will open. Check with the park in advance to be sure you know which areas or services are open, such as bathroom facilities and concessions, and bring what you need with you.

### National parks

The National Park Service [↗](#) will decide on a park-by-park basis whether a national park will be open. Please check with individual parks [↗](#) for specific details since, in many cases, visitor centers, concessions, and bathroom facilities might be closed.

### Beaches or other swimming areas

State and local authorities will decide whether natural bodies of water and beaches or swim areas will be open. Please check with individual beaches or swim areas for specific details.



## Do: Stay 6 feet away from others (“social distancing”) and take other steps to prevent COVID-19

If a park, beach, or recreational facility is open for public use, visiting is okay as long as you practice social distancing and everyday steps such as washing hands often and covering coughs and sneezes. Follow these actions when visiting a park, beach, or recreational facility:

- Stay at least six feet from others at all times. This might make some open areas, trails, and paths better to use. Do not go into a crowded area.
- Avoid gathering with others outside of your household.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Bring hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to use if soap and water are not available.



## Don't: Use playgrounds

Do not use playgrounds, including water playgrounds, located within local, state, or national parks.

Using playgrounds might lead to the spread of COVID-19 because:

- They are often crowded and could easily exceed recommended guidance for gatherings.
- It can be challenging to keep surfaces clean and disinfected.
- The virus can spread when young children touch contaminated equipment and then touch their hands to their eyes, nose, or mouth.



## Don't: Participate in organized activities or sports

In general, most organized activities and sports such as basketball, baseball, soccer, and football that are held on park fields, open areas, and courts are not recommended. These activities and sports typically require coaches and athletes who are not from the same household or living unit to be in close proximity, which increases their potential for exposure to COVID-19.



### **Do: Play it safe around and in swimming pools, and keep space between yourself and others**

There is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the water. Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (with chlorine or bromine) of pools should kill COVID-19.

Swimming and other water-related activities are excellent ways to get the physical activity needed for a healthy life. If you are not sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, it is safe to use swimming pools as long as steps are taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Practice social distancing by staying at least six feet (two meters) from others.
- Avoid large gatherings of more than 10 people.
- Keep your hands clean by washing hands with soap and water, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

Swimming does carry some health risks. Visit CDC's Healthy Swimming website for information to help you prevent illness and drowning, while having fun and enjoying the health benefits of swimming.

Page last reviewed: May 19, 2020

Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases



## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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# Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19

As public aquatic venues open in some areas, CDC offers the following considerations for the safety of those who operate, manage, and use public pools, hot tubs, and water playgrounds. Public aquatic venues can be operated and managed by:

- city or county governments
- apartment complexes
- membership clubs (for example, gyms)
- schools
- waterparks
- homeowners' associations

All decisions about implementing these considerations should be made locally, in collaboration with local health officials. Operators of public aquatic venues can consult with local officials to determine if and how to implement these considerations while adjusting them to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local jurisdiction. Their implementation should also be informed by what is feasible, practical, and acceptable.

## Promoting Behaviors that Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

Public aquatic venues can consider different strategies to encourage healthy hygiene, including:

- Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette
  - Encouraging all staff, patrons, and swimmers to wash their hands often and cover their coughs and sneezes.
- Cloth Face Coverings
  - Encouraging the use of cloth face coverings as feasible. Face coverings are **most** essential in times when physical distancing is difficult.
    - Advise those wearing face coverings to not wear them in the water. Cloth face coverings can be difficult to breathe through when they're wet.
- Staying Home
  - Educating staff, patrons, and swimmers about when to stay home (for example, if they have symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days) and when they can safely end their home isolation.
- Adequate Supplies
  - Ensuring adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene. Supplies include soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Signs and Messages

- Posting signs about how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures, and properly use a cloth face covering in highly visible locations (for example, at deck entrances and at sinks).
- Broadcasting regular announcements about how to stop the spread on PA system.
- Including messages about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 in contracts with individual patrons or households, in emails, on facility websites (for example, posting online videos), through facility's social media accounts, and on entrance tickets).

## Maintaining Healthy Environments

To maintain healthy environments, operators of public aquatic venues may consider:

- Cleaning and Disinfection
  - Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects each time they are used. For example:
    - Handrails, slides, and structures for climbing or playing
    - Lounge chairs, tabletops, pool noodles, and kickboards
    - Door handles and surfaces of restrooms, handwashing stations, diaper-changing stations, and showers
  - Consulting with the company or engineer that designed the aquatic venue to decide which List N disinfectants approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are best for your aquatic venue.
  - Setting up a system so that furniture (for example, lounge chairs) that needs to be cleaned and disinfected is kept separate from already cleaned and disinfected furniture.
  - Labeling containers for used equipment that has not yet been cleaned and disinfected and containers for cleaned and disinfected equipment.
  - Laundering towels and clothing according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water temperature and dry items completely.
  - Protecting shared furniture, equipment, towels, and clothing that has been cleaned and disinfected from becoming contaminated before use.
  - Ensuring safe and correct use and storage of disinfectants, including storing products securely away from children.
- Ventilation
  - Ensuring that ventilation systems of indoor spaces operate properly.
  - Increasing introduction and circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. However, do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety risk to staff, patrons, or swimmers.
- Water Systems
  - Taking steps to ensure that all water systems (for example, drinking fountains, decorative fountains, hot tubs) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.
- Modified Layouts
  - Changing deck layouts to ensure that in the standing and seating areas, individuals can remain at least 6 feet apart from those they don't live with.
- Physical Barriers and Guides

- Providing physical cues or guides (for example, lane lines in the water or chairs and tables on the deck) and visual cues (for example, tape on the decks, floors, or sidewalks) and signs to ensure that staff, patrons, and swimmers stay at least 6 feet apart from those they don't live with, both in and out of the water.
- Communal Spaces
  - Staggering use of communal spaces (for example, in the water or breakroom), if possible, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects each time they are used.
- Shared Objects
  - Discouraging people from sharing items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect or that are meant to come in contact with the face (for example, goggles, nose clips, and snorkels).
  - Discouraging the sharing of items such as food, equipment, toys, and supplies with those they don't live with.
  - Ensuring adequate equipment for patrons and swimmers, such as kick boards and pool noodles, to minimize sharing to the extent possible, or limiting use of equipment by one group of users at a time and cleaning and disinfecting between use.

## Maintaining Healthy Operations

To maintain healthy operations, operators of public aquatic venues may consider:

- Protections for Vulnerable Staff
  - Offering options such as telework or modified job responsibilities that reduce their risk of getting infected.
  - Limiting aquatic venue use to only staff, patrons, and swimmers who live in the local area, if feasible.
- Lifeguards and Water Safety
  - Ensuring that lifeguards who are actively lifeguarding are not also expected to monitor handwashing, use of cloth face coverings, or social distancing of others. Assign this monitoring responsibility to another staff member.
- Alterations of Public Aquatic Venues
  - Consulting the company or engineer that designed the aquatic venue before altering aquatic features (for example, slides and structures designed for climbing or playing).
- Regulatory Awareness
  - Being aware of local or state regulatory agency policies on gathering requirements or recommendations to determine if events, such as aquatic fitness classes, swim lessons, swim team practice, swim meets, or pool parties can be held.
- Staggered or Rotated Shifts
  - Staggering or rotating shifts to limit the number of staff present at the aquatic venue at the same time.
- Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact
  - Designating a staff member to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All staff should know who this person is and how to contact him or her.

- Gatherings
  - Avoiding group events, gatherings, or meetings both in and out of the water if social distancing of at least 6 feet between people who don't live together cannot be maintained. Exceptions to the social distancing guidance include:
    - Anyone rescuing a distressed swimmer, providing first aid, or performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation, with or without an automated external defibrillator.
    - Individuals in the process of evacuating an aquatic venue or entire facility due to an emergency.
  - If planned events must be conducted, staggering drop-off and pick-up times, as much as possible, to maintain distance of at least 6 feet between people who don't live together.
  - Asking parents to consider if their children are capable of staying at least 6 feet apart from people they don't live with before taking them to a public aquatic venue.
  - Limiting any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- Communication Systems
  - Putting systems in place for:
    - Having staff, patrons, and swimmers self-report if they have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
    - Notifying local health authorities of COVID-19 cases.
    - Notifying staff, patrons, and swimmers (as feasible) of potential COVID-19 exposures while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) [\[7\]](#).
    - Notifying staff, patrons, and swimmers of aquatic venue closures.
- Leave Policies
  - Implementing sick leave (time off) policies and practices for staff that are flexible and non-punitive.
  - Developing return-to-work policies aligned with CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- Back-Up Staffing Plan
  - Monitoring absenteeism of staff and creating a roster of trained back-up staff.
- Staff Training
  - Training staff on all safety protocols.
  - Conducting training virtually or ensuring that social distancing is maintained during in-person training.
- Recognize Signs and Symptoms
  - Conducting daily health checks (for example, temperature screening or symptom checking) of staff. Ensure safe and respectful implementation that is aligned with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.
    - Consider using examples of screening methods in CDC's General Business FAQs as a guide.

## Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

To prepare for when someone gets sick, operators of public aquatic venues may consider:

- Isolating and transporting those who are sick to their home or a healthcare provider.
  - Immediately separating staff, patrons, or swimmers with COVID-19 symptoms (for example, fever, cough, or shortness of breath).
  - Establishing procedures for safely transporting anyone sick to their home or to a healthcare provider.

- Notifying health officials and close contacts.
  - Immediately notifying local health officials, staff, patrons, and swimmers of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) [↗](#) .
  - Informing those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.
- Cleaning and Disinfection
  - Closing off areas used by a sick person and not using the areas until after cleaning and disinfecting them.
  - Waiting more than 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting these areas. Ensuring safe and correct use and storage of EPA-approved List N disinfectants [↗](#) , including storing products securely away from children.

## Other Resources

- Latest COVID-19 information
- Cleaning and Disinfection
- Guidance for Businesses and Employers
- CDC Healthy Swimming
- CDC Steps of Healthy Swimming
- COVID-19 Prevention
- Handwashing Information
- Face Coverings
- Social Distancing
- COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions
- CDC communication resources
- Community Mitigation

Page last reviewed: May 20, 2020

Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases



## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of HEALTH SERVICES

# COVID-19: Avoid Illness

To prevent getting and spreading COVID-19, make sure you practice good personal health habits and avoid being exposed to the virus.

### **Avoid close contact with others and practice physical distancing**

- Stay at home as much as possible. Cancel events and avoid groups, gatherings, play dates, and nonessential appointments.
- Avoid gatherings of 10 or more people. See the frequently asked questions below more information about gatherings.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from other people, when possible.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

### **Practice good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, and mouth when in public.

### **If you start to feel sick**

- If you become sick, stay home. Visit our [if you think you are sick webpage](#) for more information.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily (for example, tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles). See [CDC's recommendations for household cleaning and disinfection webpage](#).

## Frequently asked questions about staying safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic

[Can I hold or should I go to a large gathering?](#)



***Interim guidance on large gatherings:* At this time, DHS does not advise large gatherings, and there is no projected timeframe available as to when this advisory would change. Event planners should work closely with local/tribal health departments and local/tribal law enforcement on any future plans and decisions.**

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 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. This includes but is not limited to fairs, festivals, parades, and conferences.

**Given the state of COVID-19 transmission in Wisconsin, DHS 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.

In terms of planning events for this summer or fall, the best guidance is to *proceed with caution*. Work with your local/tribal health departments and consider all possible options given the potential for large group gathering cancellations due to COVID-19. Wherever possible, DHS urges event organizers to host virtual or other non-contact events that can build the same sense of community and celebration.

Resources:

[CDC Information for Event Planners and Individuals](#)

### **How is COVID-19 spread?**

COVID-19 is spread through respiratory droplets that are released when a sick (infected) person coughs, sneezes, or breathes. These droplets can remain in the air and on surfaces for

It is critical now, more than ever, for families, friends, and neighbors to be aware of the signs of child abuse and neglect and to know how to report those signs to their local welfare agencies.

This [one-page flyer](#) from the Department of Children and Families can help you and your partners understand the signs of abuse and neglect and know how to report suspected incidents. If you suspect abuse or neglect, contact your county's child protective services (CPS) agency immediately. Your [local CPS agency's contact information can be found online](#) or by calling the United Way's resource line by dialing 2-1-1.

### **Opening a Local Community Isolation Center**

The [Isolation Site Operational Manual](#) and [Isolation Site Considerations Toolkit](#) can help communities prepare to set up an isolation site to serve those who have tested positive for or who are suspected to have COVID-19, and are unable to isolate in their own homes. It covers choosing a site, [referring people to the facility](#), and running the facility.

These facilities are for symptomatic individuals suspected to be infected with COVID-19 or who have a confirmed case of COVID-19. Individuals will not be permitted to register at the facility unless referred by a medical provider or public health official. Individuals register and stay at the isolation facility on a voluntary basis. The expected length of stay will be about 14 days, or 72 hours after symptoms dissipate. At any time, either the individual or the facility may terminate the individual's presence at the site. Those staying at the facility will have wellness checks by phone every four hours during the day and if needed at night.

### **Public Pools, Splash Pads, and Water Parks**

**Note:** The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) have released [guidance for operators](#) to assist in planning and reducing risk when reopening. The [DATCP and WEDC guidelines](#) provide information on **how** to reopen, while these recommendations provide information on **when** to reopen.

Groups of people who are in close contact with one another greatly increases the risk for the spread of the virus. It is difficult to maintain physical distancing while swimming or playing in pools, splash pads, and water parks. During this time it is also challenging to maintain necessary physical distancing and sanitation recommendations in other communal areas, such as poolside seating, concession stands, changing facilities, locker rooms, and bathrooms.

Pools and water parks can draw large numbers of individuals and families, especially during the summer months. People may travel from a wide geographic area to Wisconsin's water parks, making it possible for many communities to become infected from a single day of fun.

**At this time, the Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends that all public pools, splash pads, and water parks remain closed due to the spread of COVID-19.** Until we meet the benchmarks established in the roadmap to reopen Wisconsin, it is not safe to bring together groups of individuals that are not part of a single household or living unit into an environment where sustained and close contact could occur. You can track the state's progress on these benchmarks on the [DHS COVID-19 Response website](#). This is a rapidly evolving situation, but it is unlikely that this recommendation would be changed unless significant progress in meeting gating criteria are met.

DHS understands that there are many positive benefits from visiting public pools, splash pads, and water parks. While it isn't the same, there are other fun outdoor activities individuals and families can participate in while waiting for it to be safe to return to pools and water parks. Families or households can still enjoy bike rides, walks, and other outdoor physical activities that allow for safe physical distancing.

### **Recommended Actions to Take**

Stay informed about local COVID-19 information and updates. We recommend checking the website or social media of your local or tribal health department and the [Department of Health Services website](#) for the most updated information.

Close all public pools (including pools located in lodging facilities), splash pads, and water parks, and limit the people onsite to only those needed for maintenance and upkeep.

### **Once it is Determined to be Safe to Reopen**

Operators should coordinate with their local or tribal health departments to ensure that best practices are being followed to meet all expectations and requirements for physical distancing and other public health protections. Refer to the [WEDC Industry Guidelines for Entertainment and Amusement](#) for specific considerations for swimming pools and water attractions.

All decisions about implementing considerations for operations should be made locally, in collaboration with local or tribal health officials. Operators of public aquatic venues can consult with local officials to determine if and how to implement these considerations while adjusting them to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community. Their implementation should also be informed by what is feasible, practical, and acceptable.

## Resources

[WEDC Industry Guidelines for Entertainment and Amusement](#)

[DATCP Guidelines for Reopening Pools and Water Attractions](#)

[CDC Considerations for Aquatic Venues](#)

[CDC Recreational Facility Guidance](#)

[Return to Play: COVID-19 Risk Assessment Tool](#)

[USA Swimming Facility Reopening Messaging and Planning](#)

## **Shelters**

This guidance is intended to support response planning by homeless service providers, including overnight emergency shelters, day shelters, and meal service providers.

It should also be a source of guidance for domestic violence shelters, or similar emergent temporary group living arrangements.

## Planning

### **Plan for higher shelter usage during the outbreak.**

Consult with community leaders, local public health departments, and faith-based or nonprofit organizations about places you can refer clients to if your shelter space is full.

Identify short-term volunteers to staff shelters with more usage.

Consider the need for extra supplies (for example, food, toiletries) and surge staff, ensuring they have personal protective equipment.

### **Develop a list of key contacts, including your local and state health departments.**

Identify a contact person at your local health department and discuss procedures for reporting suspected or confirmed cases.

### **Identify health care facilities and alternate care sites where clients with respiratory illness can seek housing and receive appropriate care.**

Establish points of contact and proactively discuss preferences for coordination.

Develop a plan for transporting persons with severe illness to medical facilities.

**Develop contingency plans for increased absenteeism among staff and volunteers due to their illness or illness within their family.**

Develop flexible attendance and sick-leave policies.

Identify critical job functions and positions, and plan for alternative coverage by cross-training staff members.

**Identify staff and clients who could be at higher risk for severe illness, including those who are older or have underlying health conditions, to ensure their needs are taken into consideration.**

Staff and volunteers at high risk of severe COVID-19 infection should not be designated as caregivers for sick clients staying in the shelter.

**Monitor up-to-date information on the CDC COVID-19 website and the DHS COVID-19 website.**

### **Screen Clients and Monitor Staff/Volunteers**

**Screen clients at check-in and monitor staff/volunteers for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 infection**, as well as exposure risk, such as close contact with a person who has COVID-19 symptoms or who was confirmed to have COVID-19. The shelter should also post a sign that ensures everyone answers screening questions before entering the facility.

At check-in, provide any client with respiratory symptoms (cough or fever) with a surgical mask) and physically separate them from non-symptomatic clients (see "Physical Space" below).

**Limit visitors to the facility.** If anyone has symptoms and is NOT a client needing a place to sleep, they may not enter facility at all. If they are a client and have no place else to go, then they must wear a mask and sleep in a separate area.

### **Physical Space/Engineering Controls**

**Identify space that can be used to accommodate clients with mild respiratory symptoms and separate them from others.**

## Jamie Polley

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**From:** Cynthia Hassel  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:24 PM  
**To:** Jamie Polley  
**Subject:** FW: Pool Opening

**From:** Todd [mailto:kclou543@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:22 PM  
**To:** DG\_ParkForestry <ParkForestry@co.marathon.wi.us>  
**Subject:** Pool Opening

Hello,

I am sure you are getting a ton of these emails and i am not sure who makes the final call on the pool openings but i have ramblings and thoughts i need to get across.

I noticed there was a meeting last night and it does not look like any local leaders want to open the pool for safety reasons. While i can appreciate keeping everyone safe this stay at home order along with shutting down parks and pools is going way tooooooo far.

Those with zero power are trying to make everyone follow rules they cannot make.

The taxpayers want to use what they pay for and that includes the pools and parks!

I have 3 kids and to think they will have to lose out on a summer because local leaders are on a power trip to control everyone. Losing out on 1 summer is a lot of memories that cannot be replaced.

The numbers of COVID cases in Wisconsin is negligible at best. If people don't want to use the pools that's their choice. They can stay home. Don't make the rest of us suffer.

Not only my kids but those that are hoping for a job working at the pools. This is a lot of money to a kid or college kid with short window to make money.

Again zero laws are on the books for this shutdown and it's wrong for you to punish everyone and possibly ruin some kids summer and who knows their future outlook on life. Summer is magical and the memories last a life time.

Heck even the YMCA is still having camp! If they didn't have camp i would have to send my daughters to the YMCA daycare or Boys and girls club anyway! That means 30+ kids in a small room all breathing on each other. What sense does it make to keep them from the pools and parks if they can go to these types of gatherings?!

I could go on and on how this is quickly becoming a communist state but I am sure you know that. For the kids sake please open everything up.

**Jamie Polley**

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**Subject:** FW: RE; Opening the pools

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**From:** Judith Miller <judithmmiller2001@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 11:08 PM

**To:** Patrick Peckham

**Subject:** RE; Opening the pools

Hi. Pat!

Hoping all is well with you and yours and that you are finding ways to enjoy the enforced isolation. I tend to think a little solitary time is good for everyone.

As you know, I follow City events and meetings closely and have watched all the Park and Rec meetings since the new Council convened, including tonight's meeting.

I feel compelled to write and comment that I certainly hope the committee will vote NOT to open the pools, as it would prove costly, ineffective, and impractical. There is no way that anyone could adequately police the activities children customarily get involved in in a pool, and certainly the point of being in a large public pool in the first place is to enjoy the customarily boisterous atmosphere of the place, "Boisterousness" is NOT something we can afford to encourage with COVID-19 in play. While the State Supreme Court may have invalidated the Governor's declaration of a public health emergency, no legislature can end the viral threat; the reality of medical danger continues despite our best efforts to deny it. In that a person can carry the viral infection for up to fourteen days without any symptoms and the newly discovered link from viral infection in children to Multi-System Organ Syndrome, the potential for spread of the disease through the kind of contact that occurs in a public pool is enormous.

I would add that the committee needs also to ask itself how lifeguards who are present to guard against and mitigate situations of physical danger could protect any person at the pool from infection from a wound caused by a fall on the deck or elsewhere within the pool area. I cannot imagine how viral infection of an open wound might be avoided - and I hesitate to guess at the potential liability of the city if such an incident occurred. A pool can be a very dangerous place in and of itself whether because of the water danger or because of the wet deck.

While some might worry that children will have nothing to do this summer without the pools to play in, I would point out that children found other things to do a hundred years ago and the vast majority of American families kept their children as far away as possible from bodies of water during the polio scares of 1954 and 1955 without harming either their physical or psychological development.

I urge this committee to keep the pools closed this year. We need to devote the valuable time of Park Dept. staff to designing and implementing creative ways to keep children active and entertained this summer. One such idea might be to have GPS-directed treasure hunts in the parks with enforced social distancing and downloadable instructions and maps.

I would greatly appreciate your communication of my concerns to the committee at their next meeting or before.

***Judith Miller***

903 Kiickbusch /street

Wausau, WI 54403

715-842-1893

*judithmmiller2001@yahoo.com*

## Jamie Polley

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**From:** Julie Correll <jcorr57@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2020 3:55 PM  
**To:** Jamie Polley  
**Subject:** Parks and Recreation Committee meeting

Hello, Jamie,

My name is Julie Correll, and I live at 717 Steuben St. in Wausau. I am asking that the parks and recreation committee votes to allow pools in Wausau to be open this summer. As a grandparent, a former public school teacher, and tax payer, I believe that our children and our families need to be able to enjoy Wausau's playgrounds, parks, and pools.

It has been a long few months for our children, who have been taken out of schools, not allowed to play with their friends, and basically kept "safe at home." Fresh air and sunshine will benefit all. (There may be those who do not feel safe going to parks, playgrounds, and pools. I believe that they can exercise their freedom to stay at home.)

Please convey the contents of this email to members of the Parks and Recreation committee prior to the June 1 meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Julie Correll

Sent from my iPhone

## Jamie Polley

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**From:** Anders Tietz <anderstietz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 3:26 PM  
**To:** Katie Rosenberg; Patrick Peckham; Jamie Polley  
**Cc:** Tom Neal; Sarah Watson; Tom Kilian; Lou Larson  
**Subject:** Public Comment Parks and Recreation Committee regarding Swimming Pools

The question whether to open or close the swimming pools in the City of Wausau isn't an "agonizing decision". All pools should remain closed for the 2020 season. It's that simple.

In keeping with its tradition, the Parks and Recreation Committee on Monday, 5/18/20, decided not to address the swimming pool issue until they next convene ... maybe. Last term I attended multiple Committee meetings being a now former Citizens for a Clean Wausau member. Time and time again, I witnessed this Committee table, put off, and delay various agenda items brought before them.

The question regarding the pools is quite easy. I thought Ms. Polley brought before the Committee very powerful arguments in keeping the pools closed. We're still not experts on COVID 19, and its spread. If ignorant adults want to congregate in taverns with over turn of Wisconsin's 'Safer at Home' order, that's their business. I'm not willing to risk further spread of COVID 19 to our children. That should be your stance as well. Also, keeping the pools closed would save the City of Wausau money it may need for essential expenditures. I've heard more than one Alderperson rail about the need of cutting non-essential spending during this pandemic. Swimming pools are VERY non-essential. If you were to look up the term 'Non-Essential', you would see a swimming pool pictured next to the definition!

All of you have chosen to be leaders of our Community. Most times, doing the popular thing is easier than doing the right thing. Keeping all the pools closed insure our children's safety.

Closing the pools isn't agonizing - It's the right thing to do.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for your service to our Community.

Anders Tietz  
903 Kickbusch St  
Wausau, WI 54403

## Jamie Polley

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**From:** Tom Kilian  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:44 AM  
**To:** Jamie Polley  
**Subject:** Fw: Pool Opening

Jamie,

Below is input I received from a citizen.

Thank you,  
Tom

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From: Carolyn <bck0725@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2020 12:24 PM  
To: Tom Kilian  
Subject: Pool Opening

Dear Lou and Tom,

My name is Carolyn LaPorte and I live in Lou's district.

I would like to bring this up to both your attentions as this has been recently brought to my attention about the Wausau Pools being possibly opening. I am a foster parent to a 4 year old and am very concerned about the ramifications that this issue could make to peoples lives.

How is the park to contain children from interacting with each other at pool s? In the past I bring my child to the splash pad and children run and play together. They get right up into each others faces. Same as the pool over at Jefferson school. At the little kiddy area, kids are playing with each other. How is a life guard supposed to separate children? Do you think that all parents will be responsible enough to constantly separate the children?

Most times younger children are brought to the pool by an older siblings or teen. What if a child gets hurt or drowns and needs CPR? That's exposing the life guard and the child to even more risk. Not to mention possible chain reaction spread to other people.

I for one will not take my child and purposely expose her to potential danger. We'll wait until Scientific professionals, Dr and Nurses have a better grasp at the whole pandemic. People look to our leaders for guidance and if you deem it safe then they will follow suit. Look at the mask sk situations going on now.

Please Consider what your decisions can do to a child/persons long term health. It may be nothing or it can be the ultimate sacrifice.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Carolyn LaPorte

Wausau, WI 54401

## Jamie Polley

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**From:** Tom Kilian  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:43 AM  
**To:** Jamie Polley  
**Subject:** Fw: Pools opening

Jamie,

Below is input I received from a citizen.

Thank you,  
Tom

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**From:** shannon Whaples <shannonspianostudio@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 23, 2020 2:46 PM  
**To:** Tom Kilian  
**Subject:** Pools opening

Hi, I'm a parent of two teenage boys who have loved going to the Wausau pools in previous years. One is now looking forward to his first job with the pool system. The past 3 months many things have been taken away from our kids due to Covid. Please don't let this be another thing they will miss out on.

I truly believe that if the pools don't open there will be a wave of drownings in our area, which I will 100% identify as a secondary Covid death. The social activities and sunshine are needed to keep people of all ages healthy especially in the northern climates.

I believe the pools can open with restrictions, in people and having people bring their own chairs. Limiting numbers of people in a group will also help. No swimming classes, and also no daycares coming during open swimming. Those organizations can rent a pool instead.

For the kids sake.. and for those people who don't want to take chances at Sunnyside, Mission lake or the river.

Shannon Whaples  
Wausau

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**From:** Amy Dykstra <ajvolley\_21@hotmail.com>



**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:22 PM

**To:** Tom Neal; Lou Larson; Tom Kilian; Sarah Watson; Patrick Peckham

**Subject:** Please Open Wausau Pools

Dear City Alderpersons,

I am emailing you today to respectfully ask that you vote YES on June 1st, to opening the Wausau Pools this summer. I do not want to fill this email with articles, facts, and numbers because I'm sure you have been inundated with them! I do want to say that I strongly believe NOT opening the pools will do more damage to the mental/emotional health of the Wausau community, than the virus will do physically. I understand that there are liability issues, but hoping that you could place signs at the entrance of each pool stating something to the affect that people need follow reasonable guidelines and use the pools at their own risk. Lifeguards can ask people to leave who are not following necessary guidelines. If there is a spike in the number of serious cases of Covid in the Wausau area, pools can always close. The virus isn't going anywhere and immunities can NOT be built up by staying home. I would think that a pool would be a "safer" place to be than any store and restaurant (more opening back up everyday) since it is filled with chlorine, and is outdoors in the sunshine. Every person I have talked to about the pools wants them open. Those who are concerned, can certainly stay away, but I think the community at large is really hoping to see them open. People/kids are going to congregate no matter what, and I think being at the pool is a better, healthier option than others out there.

I thank you for your time and effort on this decision. I know you each want what's best for the community of Wausau.

Sincerely,  
Amy Dykstra

Sent from Outlook



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

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**From:** Deb <debra.bouche@gmail.com>



**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2020 8:37 AM

**To:** Lou Larson; Patrick Peckham; Sarah Watson; Tom Kilian; Tom Neal

**Subject:** Open our pools

My name is Deb Bouche. I live at 309 S 66th Avenue. I am writing to express my concern for the children in our community. I would like you to consider a way to open up the local pools.

During this time, our children are in need of places they can go to have fun.

Please find a way. Thank you,

Debra Bouche

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From: Jodi Peters <jpeters@tdinc.net>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 9:35 AM

To: Patrick Peckham

Subject: Please don't open the pools this summer

3

First of all, thank you. Government and committee work is thankless work. I have appreciated your work as our alderman; you are engaged, open to discourse, and diligent, and I appreciate your ability to make it feel like our local government is accessible and responsive to our voices.

That being said, I was a bit dismayed to see a vocal minority lead the policy on playground equipment through anarchic vandalism. That is not how government should work, but I understand these are delicate times for officials making policies that are unpopular with an obnoxious, persistent, intimidating - and by-the-way, anti-vaccination - few.

It makes me super nervous about what will happen with the pools. I speak as the wife of an essential worker who fears for our health. Just this past week, my husband has been working all over the central part of the state in hospitals, nursing homes, and on factory floors. You name the covid hotspot, and that is where his job takes him. A quarantine unit wheeled a machine out of quarantine, he fixed it, and they wheeled it back in.

So, you can imagine that as our state has gone "wild west", with little in the way of regulations, and much in the way of people expressing their own personal liberty ... and as the rates of infection have been climbing, most likely reflecting this, I am in a place of anxiety. What will my husband be exposed to today? What will he bring home? When will we be able to be with our elderly parents again?

I hope our city does what it can to minimize risk. Chlorine may (or may not! new virus, science isn't set on how it works yet!) kill covid in the water, but it doesn't stop people from congregating too closely, and dispersing bodily fluids on each other. When I think of kids swimming, I have an image in my mind of a kid dunking under the water and then coming up spitting - that's just what happens. That's how kids work, that's how swimming works. I understand the need to normalize, but these are not normal times. We are the next generation's guardians, we owe them more than an increased opportunity to become virus transmission vectors. We owe more to all of the people who will come in contact with them, who are at risk, and who will continue to pass it along to others.

Please don't open the pools.

Thanks you,

Jodi Peters  
2112 Zimmerman Street



**From:** Nicky Lindman [mailto:mysklind@charter.net]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2020 7:51 AM

**To:** 'katie.rosenberg@ci.wausau.wi.us' <katie.rosenberg@ci.wausau.wi.us>; 'jamie.polley@co.marathon.wi.us' <jamie.polley@co.marathon.wi.us>

**Cc:** 'Patrick.Peckham@ci.wausau.wi.us' <Patrick.Peckham@ci.wausau.wi.us>; 'tom.kilian@ci.wausau.wi.us' <tom.kilian@ci.wausau.wi.us>; 'tom.neal@ci.wausau.wi.us' <tom.neal@ci.wausau.wi.us>; 'becky.mcelhaney@ci.wausau.wi.us' <becky.mcelhaney@ci.wausau.wi.us>; 'sarah.watson@ci.wausau.wi.us' <sarah.watson@ci.wausau.wi.us>; 'lou.larson@ci.wausau.wi.us' <lou.larson@ci.wausau.wi.us>

**Subject:** City of Wausau Parks Dept Questions

Dear Mayor Rosenberg, Director Polley, City of Wausau Parks & Recreation Committee Members, & City of Wausau Council President,

I am writing to all of you, because of the questions I have on decisions that are being made regarding the City of Wausau parks, pools, playgrounds and sports fields.

Full disclosure:

1. I am Mom to 3 teenagers, 2 of which have been employed for the past several years by the County as concession workers and lifeguards for the City of Wausau pools (Memorial Pool).
2. My husband is Eric Lindman – City of Wausau Public Works Director, however don't let that distract you – this letter is from me, The Mom! 😊
3. I am the Girls Youth Lacrosse manager – Wolfpack Lacrosse.

As information has been slow to come out – I have tried to piece together news reports, social media posts, I typically watch the meetings for the Parks & Rec Committee on public access tv, I do really try to be informed and yet the discussion(s) of closing City of Wausau parks, playgrounds, pools hasn't really been that transparent and what is out there is confusing and lacks consistency with other decisions being made for the City of Wausau – WHY?

Marathon County COVID stats are fairly easy to find – more difficult are specific City of Wausau COVID stats. Can anyone tell me how many active positive cases of COVID 19 there are currently in the City of Wausau? How many deaths has the City of Wausau residents experienced due to COVID 19?

While we see much larger communities across the nation that have had significant numbers of COVID cases & related deaths - start to open up their beaches, pools, parks & playgrounds, our city is shutting everything down. Are all of you more aware of concerning data for the City of Wausau that would warrant this response? I have seen the comment that the parks committee is following the data – can you please share the COVID data for the City of Wausau with me?

The Safer At Home Order was not extended for the City of Wausau. Marathon County Health Department has not declared a current health emergency, nor have they closed down pools, parks, playgrounds etc. at this time in the county. They have made “recommendations” that basically state all youth outdoor activities should be postponed or canceled, but also made it clear, that ultimately it is up to the discretion of the individual/families/organizers on how they would like to interpret their recommendations. The Parks & Rec Dept interpreted that to mean fence off playgrounds and state they are closed, do not allow any organized sports to practice or play on City of Wausau park grounds, and would like the Parks & Rec Committee to close down the City pools for the summer. The City of Wausau Police Department stated they have no order or law to enforce and therefore can only encourage social distancing and following recommendations at this time..... So the City of Wausau did not extend the Safer At Home Order, the County Health Department is making recommendations not orders, the Parks Department is making interpretations and the Police Department is saying they can't enforce recommendations and interpretations– only laws. YEP – that isn't confusing?! What kind of message is this to our community?

What criteria is the City of Wausau Parks Dept. using to make these interpretations?

In our community – we have private country clubs advertising for new members – their outdoor pools are opening end of May. If the County Health Dept does not feel it necessary to order ALL the pools closed, what criteria and data are being considered by the Parks & Rec Committee that shows the City of Wausau is at a greater risk and needs to shut down all of its public pools?

Has the Parks Department reached out to the summer employees to see how many would be able to work this summer if the pools were to open? Is it already a "given" that the pools are closing?

The City of Wausau full council will be considering opening up the 400 Block and 3<sup>rd</sup> St. to additional outdoor dining for the downtown restaurants. Has the County Health Department been consulted for this decision? Has the Health Department made a formal recommendation – has it been publically posted? What is the criteria that would make this idea safe but the use of playgrounds, fields and pools not safe? Will children be allowed to eat with their families on the 400 Block – what will happen if a few kids get up from their table and start to play in the open areas on the 400 Block, what if they brush up against a non-family member? Will all the people be required to wear a mask on the expanded outdoor eating areas and only remove it to take a bite of food? We could continue to discuss "WHAT IF's – but they aren't really helpful are they?! Will the council members that are on the Parks Committee be consistent in their voting? If you vote to close down the pools and then vote to open up the expanded outdoor eating areas – can you explain that? Again – what is the criteria you are using.

The Public Health & Safety Committee unanimously approved the outdoor dining opportunity and it was forwarded to the full council for final decision. Is this also happening with the City of Wausau closure of CITY playgrounds, parks, sports fields and pools? Who has the ultimate authority over these decisions regarding our city parks?

The money – every year the Parks & Rec for the City of Wausau operates at a loss. The money coming in, doesn't cover the cost of operations. This has been in full knowledge of the council and has been consistently accepted – why has this now become a bigger concern?

- There was mention that pool staff may be depending on hours and were "promised" specific hours as part of their employment. My children have worked at Memorial Pools for 3 summers – they have never been promised hours. The weather dictates if they open or close the pools and their hours are always impacted every summer by rain and cool weather.

I realize that you are all in the HOT SEATS right now – and people will be upset either way you go. It would be helpful to have some consistency with City of Wausau COVID 19 decisions, and better communication from the leaders on how decisions are being made, what data is being considered and what our data even is! If you haven't noticed – people are pretty fired up about this whole COVID thing....some people are in a complete panic. Actual local data and consistent, decisive, clear leadership can help calm the community.

And yes – vote YES for expanded outdoor dining, YES for keeping our pools open, YES for opening our playgrounds, parks and sports fields. If data significantly changes for our area – all of these decisions can be reversed.

I look forward to your responses.

Thank you,  
Nicky Lindman



5

From: Nicky Lindman [mailto:mysklind@charter.net]

Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 1:53 PM

To: Katie Rosenberg <Katie.Rosenberg@ci.wausau.wi.us>; Jamie Polley <Jamie.Polley@co.marathon.wi.us>

Cc: Patrick Peckham <Patrick.Peckham@ci.wausau.wi.us>; Tom Kilian <Tom.Kilian@ci.wausau.wi.us>; Tom Neal <Tom.Neal@ci.wausau.wi.us>; Becky McElhaney <Becky.McElhaney@ci.wausau.wi.us>; Sarah Watson <Sarah.Watson@ci.wausau.wi.us>; Lou Larson <Lou.Larson@ci.wausau.wi.us>

Subject: RE: City of Wausau Parks Dept Questions

Hello All – thought I would reach out one last time before the big meeting on Monday!

First - I wanted to share some FACTS that are specific to our community – the City of Wausau.

- North Central Health Care had a COVID positive employee go to work amongst the most susceptible, vulnerable population (the elderly) at its Marathon County run facility – even though this employee was symptomatic and positive for the virus while in the facility – NO ONE ELSE GOT IT!! FACT! - Nursing care facility like a hospital strict precautions
- North Central Health Care is opening up its newly renovated therapy pool beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> with a soft opening – this pool is indoors and physically attached to the structure that houses our most vulnerable population (the elderly) – and yet, this Marathon County run pool is opening! FACT! - see attached email + website - not public
- The WI Dept of Health Services and the Marathon County Health Dept. have not declared a health emergency and have NOT required pools to close. Both entities have the authority to close down pool facilities if they deem the public health at too great of a risk – they have not done this. FACT! were declared
- Our most current stats as of the date and time of this email:
  - Marathon County has a total of 24 currently positive COVID people in the entire county, 21 have recovered (5/28 @2pm last updated the 5/29 stats not yet posted)
  - Marathon County has had 1 death (5/28 @ 2pm updated)
  - WI Dept of Health Services regionalized counties in the state – Marathon County is part of a 12 county region called the North Central Region,
    - i. In our 12 county region – we have 8 total people hospitalized in which 1 of them is in the ICU. That is worth stating again – in the 12 counties around us, there are currently 8 people hospitalized for COVID! 8 total - this information is updated daily. (5/29 @ 10:30am)

I know each of you are burdened by the decisions coming your way on Monday – which now again includes the possible closing of sports fields and playgrounds along with the pools. I want to encourage all of you on a few points that are important in your approach to this crazy situation:

1. FOCUS - Apply the local facts to these agenda items – the big picture has too much noise!
2. CONSISTENCY – why allow families to eat outdoors downtown, but not allow families on playgrounds or pool decks? Why not require people to wear masks while enjoying the outdoors in the expanded outdoor eating area downtown, or in City Hall – but require the use on an outdoor pool deck?
3. COMMUNICATION – be clear, explain your criteria for your decisions.

Personally, if I were on this committee – I would be pushing back on the County and State Health Dept’s – if their level of concern is not great enough and they are not willing to close down playgrounds, sports fields and pools – why would I?! And please do not interpret that to mean I don’t think they care – because that wouldn’t be accurate. Whatever algorithms they use for health emergencies, closures etc haven’t been great enough to trigger the closures. I think everyone cares – and not one single person I know wants anyone to get sick or die, but everyone has their own take on that and a lot of people are scared. Put out some guidelines, let people, families, individuals create their own safety bubbles. Just because you allowed restaurants downtown to expand their seating/eating and drinking out into the street, sidewalk areas etc....doesn’t mean people will be required to go and dine there – same holds true for playgrounds and pools etc.

Thanks again!  
Nicky Lindman

"This is in response to an e-mail that spoke about North Central Health Care allowing a COVID-positive employee to return to work and about alleged risk of beginning to use the new therapy pool on the grounds."

Pat Peckham, Dist. 1 alderman, Wausau

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**From:** Jessica Meadows  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2020 4:31 PM  
**To:** Patrick Peckham  
**Subject:** Re: Some details

6

Hi Pat,

NCHC would like to clarify that we are providing no operational advice or opinion about the operation of recreational swimming pools, which is what is referred to in the email below. NCHC Aquatic Therapy Pool is not a recreational pool and is a therapy pool only. First, there is some incorrect information in the comments you provided to me, so I will do my best to simply explain the process the NCHC is using for the operations of our Warm Water Therapy Pool and the soft opening occurring in June.

- The current Aquatic Therapy Center is not physically connected to any other care areas on the Wausau Campus at this time. There are no connecting hallways, shared space or shared air exchange with the nursing home or any other existing building on the Campus. It is a stand-alone building right now. Nursing home residents do not have access to the facility from their building. Staff do not cross in between buildings.
- The entire pool area including the pool deck and water will be limited to 10 people, that include staff and patients total. A screening process is required for all staff and patients before entering the facility, which includes temperature monitoring. Any individuals who are symptomatic or have a fever will not be allowed to enter, including staff or patients.
- All staff will be wearing a surgical or respirator face mask at all times. All patients will be required to wear a surgical face mask or face covering at all times, in all areas of the building including changing rooms and the pool. We have no group therapy sessions at the pool at this time and only individual physical therapy appointments.
- Our locker rooms are closed and we are using individual changing rooms for patients. After each patient use the room is wiped down with cleaning agents and cleared for the next patient. We have single use signage on doors showing the status of the room.

- Patients are limited to one adult guest to come with them for assistance in and out of the facility and this individual is not allowed in the pool deck or pool area. That individual would fall under all of the above mentioned requirements of screening and face mask requirements. There will be no more than 10 individuals, including staff, in the lobby area at any given time.
- Our therapy pool is only scheduling about 3 patients per hour to space individuals apart and allow us to not exceed the maximum of 10 people total in the pool area.

As far as the comment regarding the Covid-19 positive employee, currently NCHC has no Covid-19 positive employees or residents. Our staff are working in zones and do not cross within the building from care areas to care areas. Screening and temperature checks are at all zones for all staff and patients. Our nursing home and inpatient hospitals are zoned separately from the outpatient facilities and staff are not allowed to cross zones. NCHC will continue to follow the guidance set forth by the CDC and our local and state health officials regarding operations and recommendations.

I hope this information helps clarify the steps we are taking to keep people safe. If you have any further questions, please let me know.



## North Central Health Care

Person centered. Outcome focused.

### **Jessica Meadows**

Communications & Marketing Director



1100 Lake View Dr. • Wausau, WI 54403

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[jmeadows@norcen.org](mailto:jmeadows@norcen.org) • [www.norcen.org](http://www.norcen.org)

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From: Deanna Kelly <dmkelly0818@aol.com>  
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 5:19 PM  
To: Patrick Peckham  
Subject: Playgrounds and Pools

7

I think it is time to leave the playgrounds open and open the neighborhood pools this summer. Time to Let kids be kids. So much was taken away from them this spring, give them back their summer. Parents should also have the freedom to make their own decisions regarding their families.

Everyone needs their life back!

Thank you,

Deanna Kelly

Sent from my iPad

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From: Paula Meadows <paulameadows624@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 11:09 AM  
To: Patrick Peckham  
Subject: Wausau Pools

8

My name is Paula Meadows, I live at 1302 Madison St. I am writing to express my concern for the children in our community. I would like for you consider to find a way to open up the local pools. It seems that during this time our children are in need of places they can go to have fun. Please find a way.  
Thank you

Paula Meadows

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From: Pamela Bannister <bannistr@icloud.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 6:59 PM  
To: Patrick Peckham  
Subject: Playgrounds and pools

9

Mr Peckham, I am writing in favor of keeping area pools and playgrounds closed during the pandemic. I am grossly disappointed in area parents who feel their children are not sufficiently entertained and therefore we should ignore social distancing in favor of letting kids gather in places that could greatly increase their own exposure and in turn expose the rest of us who are trying our best to follow CDC criteria. We have all had to make sacrifices. Please also try and convey to the council, the request for turning on drinking fountains (As one parent on the SES requested), is a great way to spread diseases.

Thank you,  
Pam Bannister  
506 Eau Claire Blvd

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Martha Jean Ross <marthajean.k.ross@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:27 PM  
**To:** Patrick Peckham  
**Subject:** park meeting

10

Hi Pat,  
First and foremost I want to thank you for doing a great job keeping the southeast side informed while trying to give facts and not the political debates going around! From reading comments I know your job is not easy. As far as the playgrounds and pools etc. opening back up I would like to share my opinions.

First, I myself am a parent of 3 young children in the southeast side area and I know how crazy some days can be. I am a stay at home mom and yes another parent that finished schooling here at home. My husband has had to work from home and they have no intention of opening their office anytime soon. That being said, I enjoy the time with all my kids. I watched them learn first hand. We have things in the backyard for them to play with and bike rides and walks we can take. I do not feel the need for a park or pool to "save my sanity." My children have already had a blast running through the sprinkler and having water balloon fights. We draw chalk, we play games, dig in the sandbox, play on our swingset, plant, etc.

I was happy with thinking we would have a staggered approach as the number of cases was declining. However, it felt as if someone flipped a switch and we went from lockdown and no contact to go ahead and do whatever. But wait, be careful and maintain a distance...each business and town can decide what they want. When things were closed, the disrespect people showed tearing tape off parks and having no police enforcement made it seem like our city didn't care about its residents very much. That doesn't help send a clear message to anyone as parades, 400 block entertainment, Balloonfest, Chalkfest, fireworks and fairs continue to be cancelled but other things like parks and pools can open.

To me, this isn't over, I still can't go to church, schools are deciding what fall with look like and if they will even have students. People we know had to postpone weddings, have less than 10 attend a funeral, we ourselves we forced to cancel our first family vacation which was planned for over a year. Everyone has felt the loss of something. And yes I would absolutely love this to have never happened and for it all to go away, but the problem is it hasn't yet, it is still here and it is still spreading.

As far as people saying the virus doesn't live on surfaces but is mostly person to person, what child at a park or pool stays 6 ft away from a friend and other kids? What about the people sitting outside and around the pool? People saying it's nothing more than the flu...I think we can agree we have all felt that illness for a couple days, but that's it, a couple days. It doesn't do permanent damage to our lungs or heart. And yes, the majority of people may be fine, but what about those that then aren't so lucky? What about my youngest that can't talk yet to tell me what's wrong if she gets sick? Is it going to take themselves, or spouse or parent or their own child to get sick for others to care if they get it or not? I haven't been able to visit my grandmother, who is 93, since this started and I won't be able to because our state keeps opening and our numbers have again been climbing. I certainly don't live in fear, but I live in the present and the reality is that as much as I wish and want to ignore it, I can't pretend it doesn't exist; I have to protect my family. That is how I view my job as a parent. Thank you for listening.

MJ Ross

From: Carol Sorensen <sorenow@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 2:55 PM  
To: Patrick Peckham  
Subject: Parks, playgrounds, pools

(11)

I appreciate the City welcoming citizen comments regarding reopening public spaces. My children are grown, but my young granddaughter will not be utilizing any parks, playgrounds or pools this summer. As of today, state virus stats don't indicate safe reopening to our family. Thank you. Carol Sorensen

Sent from my iPad

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From: GD2013 <genadennis@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 2:25 PM  
To: Tom Kilian; Tom Neal; Sarah Watson; Lou Larson; Patrick Peckham  
Subject: Wausau City Parks discussion - June 1

(12)

Good afternoon Alderpersons,

I understand there will be discussion on Monday, June 1st regarding the Wausau parks.

I would like to express my opinion and desire that the City of Wausau continue to allow the parks, and equipment within, to remain open and usable to the public.

I'd further like to see a pool(s) open as well as I'm sure this will be discussed.

I realize there is a level of risk felt but I think it is currently unwarranted. Car accidents, suicide and other calamities claim more lives than what we are experiencing with this virus, which has not and may not impact our area at all to the level we were originally anticipating.

We are experiencing a far worse financial impact within our society due to this shut down. Not to mention social issues related to mental health, domestic abuse, and crime. These issues may be a greater disaster that our City will need to address as a secondary affect of this virus. How are we preparing for that?  
Further, if a child can leave an abusive house temporarily by escaping to their area park to play that seems like a very small consolation you could extend to our most vulnerable community members. Granted they could bring a virus home, but the risk is very minimal.

Finally, a child or adult can just as easily pick up **any** virus through contact with a product, such as a toy, at Walmart. I don't see any proof over these last few months that Walmart is a catalyst for exposing the general public to this disease. Do you?

And if your argument is that the employees mask, if you look around the store they improperly wear this PPE on every occasion I've been to this store. Yet again, I don't see an influx of viral cases?

As with all thing, proper signage at our parks informing the public of the risks would be important, but allow your citizens to make the best decision for their families. If circumstances change and Covid-19 expands exponentially into our area, then appropriate measures will need to be taken.

Until then, let the kids play and allow adults a mental break.

Kindest Regards,

Gena Dennis  
212 Weston Ave.

Wausau, WI 54403  
715-870-5843

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**From:** Kari Noll <kari.noll@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 8:46 AM

**To:** Tom Neal; Sarah Watson; Lou Larson; Tom Kilian; Patrick Peckham

**Subject:** Re: Pools and Parks

Good morning everyone!

We have family in Green Bay that just posted their re-opening plan. Even Bay Beach will be opened! Just thought you might like to see these details of their plan since Brown County had a lot more cases than than Marathon.

I know it may come down to logistics and staffing, but I'm sure there are a lot of teens who would be interested in lifeguarding and willing to go through training to fill potential gaps that have occurred in this interim.

I took a look at the pool numbers and besides free days, most days were quite manageable on the numbers to allow most people to swim and not go over 50 people at a time. I'm not sure what the areas of the pools/decks are, but the calculations GB used for allowing a 6 ft radius are above as well.

I'm sure there can be a happy solution in this situation!

Thanks!

-Kari

On Wed, May 27, 2020, 6:34 PM Kari Noll <kari.noll@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi, everyone,

I am writing to beg you all to keep parks and pools open this summer. I know you must feel the weight of the decision and don't want people to blame you for making the "wrong" one. The blame is not yours to assume in either case.

I assure you, any parent letting their children play at the parks or going to the pools will be well-aware of the risk with Covid-19. It is a risk we are willing to take. We need to be able to make these decisions for ourselves, as parents, and as people who have the information we need at our fingertips to function in public

and make wise decisions. There will always be outliers, but there is a point where living our lives is far more important than the risk (and let's be honest, where we are, that risk is fairly low). Anybody on staff at pools should also be able to decide the risk they are willing to take.

Two of my friends in other cities nearly lost family members due to the virus, and even they, after seeing and experiencing things firsthand, are advocating for life to go back to normal (not the "new normal").

For those who are fearful or extra cautious, those public spaces can be avoided. The dialogue has changed from "Flatten the Curve" to "Stop the Spread". The latter is disturbing and we must question the reasons we are continuing to allow our economy and livelihood be dictated by this virus, and why the dialogue has changed. Please, let it spread if it must (and it must, or we will face a much more questionable decision forced upon us), and let the 99+% of the population not gravely at risk live their lives and enjoy the wonderful amenities Wausau has to offer.

We do not want to have to engage in civil disobedience to protest certain decisions being made. Nobody "wants" to break the rules and tear down tape/fencing at parks, but people will if they feel their rights and liberties are being threatened. They will feel as if they are being stolen from if the things they love are stripped away without their control, and the grief cycle will continue.

If all else is considered with logistics of opening pools/parks and you must still choose, please be on the side of personal choice and freedom.

Thank you for all the work you've put into making these decisions thus far.

Sincerely,

Kari Noll

12:42 58° 58°

← 2020 City of Green Bay Green Bay Parks COVID (003)....

### Pools

- Colburn pool will open in early July. We are fairly confident that we will not be able to open all three pools due to staff shortages. Our intent is to open Colburn Pool first because of the new renovations. If we are able to open additional pools we would likely open Joannes Aquatic Center next so that we have one pool on the east side and one on the west side.
- Each aquatic facility will establish capacity level based on pool basin divided by 113 SF. This is the circumference (as determined by Aquatic guidelines, based on a 6 foot diameter circle square).
- Concessions will be pre-packaged only limited due to social distancing concerns.
- Trainings will be conducted based on current Red Cross guidelines and as set by CDC, WEDC, and AOAP.
- Swim lessons, open swim (modified with capacity limits) and sanctioned swim teams at Colburn only (GBSC and GBY) will start with necessary modifications to follow safety guidelines.

### Wading Pools and Splashpads

- We are hoping to open the wading pools and splashpads around the same time as the opening of the pools. We still have to determine staffing needs and safety procedures before we will commit to a date.

15

**From:** Carol Lukens <carol.lukens@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 4:25 PM  
**To:** Tom Kilian; Tom Neal; Sarah Watson; Lou Larson; Patrick Peckham  
**Subject:** June 1st meeting

Dear Wausau Parks and Recreation Committee members,

I live in the Southeast Side neighborhood, am a teacher in the Wausau School District, and have grandchildren that I often care for and who regularly use area parks and swimming pools with me. I also have relatives that have had COVID, were frighteningly ill, and had to be hospitalized. I have another relative from this area who died suddenly and unexpectedly in March - a 32-year old mother who had no known health issues, but whose symptoms were eerily similar (pneumonia, cardiomyopathy) to how some have been impacted by the novel coronavirus. We'll never know as they weren't testing for COVID yet at that time, but our entire family has wondered since noticing the similarity of symptoms.

I've been learning all I can about COVID from an evidence-based perspective. As a teacher, I've seen firsthand how difficult this has been for students, for parents, for other staff members, and have felt those difficulties myself. As a grandmother, I've also seen firsthand the impact this is having on kids. Not being able to play with their friends and play on playgrounds, etc. has been heartbreaking for them.

Although the Safer at Home order was reversed, I continue to follow the medical guidelines by masking in public, only going out as necessary, and social distancing when I do. Since the order was reversed with no other guidelines in place, I've been struck by the number of people in stores who refuse to mask and do not social distance, despite store policies. I had to visit a store last week for a wrist brace, and two different people passed by me only inches away while I was standing in an aisle, masked, viewing the braces.

According to medical experts, there are many questions that will likely be unanswerable for some time. COVID-19 numbers have increased in Wisconsin, partly due to increased testing. However, yesterday Wisconsin saw the highest number of COVID deaths in a single day. I allowed my 8-year old grandson to play at airport park the other evening (that is the first time we visited a playground since the Safer at Home order was enacted) and there was one other little boy there with his parents. Although we discussed social distancing beforehand and had hand sanitizer along, it was nearly impossible for the boys to social distance because they wanted so much to interact with each other. We will not be visiting playgrounds again until I know we are in a safer time and space.

Although some have argued that statistically more people die from influenza than COVID, we are still early in understanding the medical science regarding COVID-19. Moreover, influenza experts from Johns Hopkins caution that when COVID hits hard, it is much more extreme than influenza, they don't yet know whether COVID is a seasonal illness, and do not yet have immunity to COVID as a population, among many other cautions.

As a resident, teacher, parent and grandparent, I understand that public access to parks and swimming pools at this time is a very sensitive issue. As a committee, I am placing my trust in you to do whatever is best for public health and only request that your discussions and decisions be guided by the wisdom and expertise of medical experts.

Carol Lukens  
725 Ethel Street  
Wausau, WI 54403  
715-581-5913

From: mkmm4@charter.net <mkmm4@charter.net>

Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 3:33 PM

To: Patrick Peckham

Subject: Parks and pools



Hi Pat,

I am concerned about keeping our area neighborhood play grounds and pool open. I realize parents are looking for a play area for their children or pools to help them through the summer . It has been mentioned that the virus does not spread on surfaces or equipment , and with social distancing, the spread of the virus can be minimized. My concern is that scientists are not in agreement with the spread of this new virus. There is still an enormous amount of research being done and the uncertainty makes me wonder about the safety of locker rooms, benches , ladders, pool changing areas, and the parents sitting near one another in the pool area, but not directly in the chlorinated water? What about the safety of these young high school and college age lifeguards should they have to save someone, possibly having to give them mouth to mouth resuscitation which is in direct contact?

What about the children playing together at the local parks, they are too young to understand social distancing among playmates. Usually, there is more than one family at the local parks at a time.

I am a teacher at a private school. I had asked our principle if the playground areas were open to the neighborhood children. Her reply was a definite no! If the schools are not open due to the virus, our playgrounds are off limits also. If people disregard the rules or make a fuss, to where the Parks Dept breaks down and says no one will listen to us, lets open the areas, what kind of message is that sending to the children? The decisions were made to protect the community , and the people of the community. We have seen a decline because of social distancing, however, we have also been made aware of the states with an recent increase, and WI., unfortunately is one of these states. Just this morning, a child at Children's Hospital was reported to have the rare COVID -19- related syndrome inflammatory disease in Milwaukee. This fact alone should make parents aware that the coronavirus is not affecting only adults. We now have 48 reported cases in Marathon County. Every day since we have started to re open, our numbers have increased. Let's keep our children safe with less exposure.

The State of WI., has closed schools, cancelled numerous events and activities; graduations, hot air balloon fest, chalk fest, Hodag, Blues fest, State fair, to mention just a few. Businesses are beginning to open with restrictions, masks are seen as everyday attire, curb side pickups are still happening, limited persons are allowed in stores, the list goes on and on. We ourselves were forced to cancelled a wonderfully planned family vacation to Disney this June. I cannot see my own mother in a senior living center because of the virus. Yes, disappointments happen, and I have read the many comments on the south east side regarding the closures of fun activities for the children, but let's be aware of the cautions we need to take in order to have the schools return in the fall, the sport fields to again return to athletes and fans, the bands to play and march at games, the stores and restaurants to fully reopen.

In conclusion, thank you for everything you are doing for our community, I realize it is not an easy job. Also, thank you for taking my input into your consideration.

Kay DeLonay

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**From:** Mike Medin [mailto:medinm@live.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2020 12:23 PM  
**To:** DG\_ParkForestry <ParkForestry@co.marathon.wi.us>  
**Subject:** Pool Decision

(17)

Dear Jamie Polley,

I just read an article that you're the director of Parks and Recreation and will be involved with the decision to open the pools. I'm the parent of 2 boys, and I ask that you open the pools. It's something we look forward to all year. If necessary, implement other restrictions regarding the pools, but please open them!

Mike Medin  
5 N Hill Rd  
Wausau WI 54403

715-302-2274

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**From:** Elaina Henrichs <laneycollegeapps@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2020 10:57 AM  
**To:** Patrick Peckham; Katie Rosenberg  
**Cc:** Karyn Powers  
**Subject:** Parks & Rec Committee Meeting

(18)

Good morning!

Attached is a letter in support of opening the city pools this summer. We are requesting this letter be submitted to all members of the Parks & Recreation Committee and Mayor Rosenberg for consideration prior to the June 1 committee meeting. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the attached, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elaina Henrichs  
Head Guard, Schulenburg Pool

May 29, 2020

TO: City of Wausau Parks & Recreation Committee  
Mayor Katie Rosenberg

RE: *The Opening of Marathon County Pools for 2020 Season*

Dear Committee Members & Mayor Rosenberg:

As Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department employees — pool supervisors, head guards and lifeguards — we believe that through proper planning and implementing, it is possible to open pools for summer 2020. Opening all three of the county's pools in a safe manner is of the most importance to us. Please consider these factors when making a decision at the committee meeting on June 1.

1. Safety precautions for pool operations and standards for implementing them already exist. Enforcing rules regarding health and safety has always been part of our job description.

As mentioned during the past committee meeting on May 18, 2020, the concern of college-age kids enforcing social distancing rules and receiving potentially dangerous reactions from patrons is relevant. However, a number of our existing rules and policies have always conflicted with our patrons' views; consequently, we have already been trained to use protocols to control 'hostile' guests. As another example, our five and under rule states that "Children under the age of five must be within arm's reach of a parent or caregiver 18 or older." This rule we enforce daily. By using our existing policies and procedures as a base and adjusting them to comply with CDC and health department guidelines, we can maintain a safe environment.

2. As of March 13, 2020, the CDC states, "There is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools and hot tubs. Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (E.G., with Chlorine or Bromine) of pools and hot tubs should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19."

In addition to existing protocols, our facilities could consider the following sanitation and hygiene recommendations of the CDC:

- Hand Hygiene and respiratory etiquette
  - Encouraging staff, patrons and swimmers to wash their hands regularly. Provide sanitizing stations.
  
- Cloth Face Coverings
  - Encouraging or requiring the use of face masks for all patrons while lounging on the pool deck and for staff members whenever they are not in a guard chair.
    - Patrons would not be able to wear face masks in the pool, as they are difficult to breathe through when they are wet, so social distancing while in the water would be enforced.
  
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
  - Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched areas multiple times daily and shared items each time they are used:
    - Handrails, slides used for climbing or playing
    - Lounge chairs, tabletops, lifejackets
    - Door Handles, surfaces of restrooms, handwashing stations, changing tables and showers

These protocols would be recorded every time they are completed and turned into the Pool Director at the end of the day/week along with the chemical and patron count sheets.

3. The CDC also states that the COVID-19 virus is now considered to be potentially airborne and does not spread easily on surfaces. This being said, the most important thing for our patrons' safety and health is proper education and social distancing.

Communication by way of signs, messages, and markings can be implemented.

- Posting signs around the facilities about how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly washing hands, promote everyday protective measures, and properly use cloth face coverings.
- Broadcasting regular announcements over the pool's PA system reminding patrons to follow the social distancing rules.
- Including messages about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 with patrons or households, in emails, on facility websites (for example posting online videos), through facility social media websites and at the entrance of each facility.
- Strategically placing chairs and sitting areas for social distancing, along with capacity regulations. Perhaps an idea is to implement appointment time blocks in order to allow fair opportunities for everyone to enjoy the pool facilities.
- Marking surfaces for social distancing in lines.

These are all things that are going to take extra time and effort on the staff's behalf, but we believe that we can accomplish them successfully.

4. Although in past years we have not had to have such strict guidelines and requirements regarding sanitation, we can now use the extra time in June when our facilities are not open to the public to create a solid plan and be trained more extensively on sanitation and cleaning that follows the CDC and Marathon County Health Department guidelines and requirements. This would also be a good time to review the protocols mentioned earlier regarding dealing with patrons who may become hostile regarding the new rules and policies.
5. Private pools with member-and-guest-only accessibility have already opened in the Wausau area.
6. Concerns regarding cost effectiveness of opening the pools have been voiced. Although opening this summer would be postponed a month thus reducing revenues, the free rotating Sundays and free Thursdays could be eliminated. Other measures to increase revenues and reduce expenses also could be considered, such increasing admission fees and opening the pools earlier in the day since there presumably will not be swimming lessons held during that time.
7. What will kids do if the pools do not open?

Since many of the kids who visit the pools are daily visitors, staff members have been able to create close relationships with them. The pools are placed geographically, meaning there is a pool that is easily accessible to as many children and community members as possible. It is our concern that without the pools being open, the kids that visit the pools daily will turn to potentially dangerous alternatives. For instance, there are no lifeguards at any of the public beaches in Marathon County. Children of essential worker parents are still going to need a place to go, so they may turn to swimming in the lakes and rivers. This is an obvious drowning hazard with no supervision or anyone nearby to provide CPR and/or First Aid services.

Additionally, as stated earlier, the guard staff at all city pools have been able to create bonds with the kids, especially those with some "behavior issues." We are properly trained and have experience with these individuals and are often able to resolve disputes without any harm caused. There are certain incentives and alternatives that our staff can offer these kids that not all members of the community can. We would much rather have kids in our community at our pools with supervision and positive interactions that they may not have elsewhere.

We offer the ideas and suggestions included in this letter as a basis for creating a plan and implementing it in order for Marathon County youth and their families to have a safe option for enjoying summer during this unprecedented time.

Respectfully submitted,

*Electronically signed by:*

at  
mtg

- \* Isabel Krolow (05/28/2020) – Supervisor, Schulenburg
- \* Elaina Henrichs (05/28/2020) – Head Guard, Schulenburg
- Megan Kluck (05/28/2020) – Head Guard, Kaiser
- Ben Kopetzky (05/28/2020) – Lifeguard, Schulenburg
- Allison Majernik (05/28/2020) – Lifeguard, Schulenburg
- Samantha Mellberg (05/28/2020) – Lifeguard, Schulenburg
- Jake Boehm (05/29/2020) – Lifeguard, Schulenburg
- Sonya Barchugova (05/29/2020) – Lifeguard, Schulenburg

cc: Karyn Powers, Recreation Superintendent

19

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From: Paul <paul.rye@aol.com>  
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2020 8:42 PM  
To: Patrick Peckham  
Subject: Parks

Dear concerned members,

As someone go is considered to be at high risk because of having asthma I feel like it is only right for me to weigh in the parks and playground accessibility. We as a state have decided that the best corse of action during this pandemic has been to politicize it. To make it about those that believe there is a real danger and those that believe it's basically the common cold. We took the steps to over turn our safer at home order with no back up plan or any real idea how to proceed. At this point we have skipped past the point of seeing what happens. We have decided to allow bars and restaurants to open. We have allowed any business to open that wants to. Daycares are open. I'm not sure how leaving parks open is going to adversely affect our youth anymore then anything else that we've done to this point. Seeing as all three of our kids participate in summer baseball this is ridiculous. We can open for everything but for our youth. We've long pasted what is recommended by the health professionals. We have decided that we have more people that believe that it's not that big of deal so at this point it's gonna be what it's gonna be. We need to allow our kids to be kids unless we feel that having opened everything is substantially affecting us and we need to reclose all of the non essentials again.

Sent from my iPhone

20

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**From:** Nicole Blanchard <nblanch2@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 30, 2020 8:06 AM  
**To:** Patrick Peckham; Tom Kilian; Tom Neal; Sarah Watson; lou.larson@ci.waisau.wi.us  
**Subject:** Marathon County Pools

Hello,

My name is Nicole Bates and I am a resident of Rib Mountain. I am writing to express my concern for the children in our community. I would like for you and the other alderpersons to find a way to allow pools to open this summer. Some possible solutions to explore are limited open hours, longer lunch time closures (for cleaning), additional seasonal staff (help with cleaning), and the fact that the CDC has been recommending hand washing (water) as a virus deterrent from the beginning. I believe the main issue to address is social distancing and as with parks I feel it should be left up to the adults.

In times like these the children need someplace to go for fun, especially after missing so much school time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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**From:** Danielle Kaulfuss <violingirl1991@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2020 12:28 PM  
**To:** Patrick Peckham  
**Subject:** Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Comment

21

Good afternoon,

Since the playgrounds have been allowed to be used in the city, my children have been going every day to a playground. We absolutely LOVE the city parks, and here is an image this week of a police officer saying hi to my daughters at the Alexander Airport Park.

I am asking that you allow playgrounds to be open. My children love to be outside, and the playground is perfect.

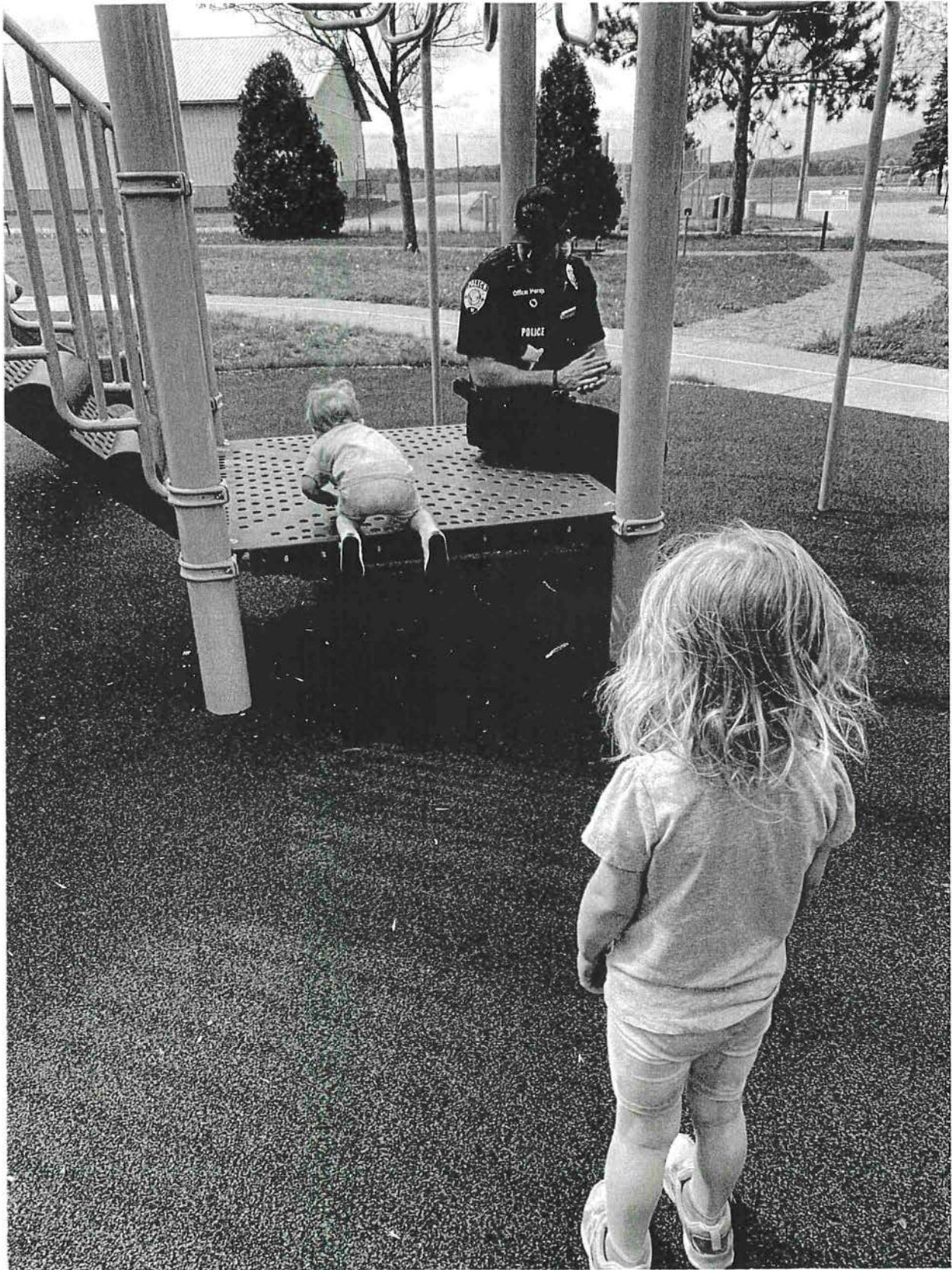
Recent studies showing that traces of covid-19 on surfaces are not as serious as once thought, and being outside in the open in a playground environment, I hope you consider this is actually GOOD for children.

I also ask that we open the public pools here for many of the same reasons.

I am a newer Wausau resident and last summer was our first here. We visited so many playgrounds, my daughters second birthday was at Memorial Pool, and all around we love the summer in Wausau. Please let us have good memories of this summer as well

Thank you,

Danielle Kaulfuss



From: cynthiam0212@gmail.com <cynthiam0212@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2020 8:47 AM

To: Patrick Peckham

Subject: Pools and playgrounds summer 2020

22

Hello Patrick,

My name is Cynthia Fetting and my husband and I are newer SES members. We moved to the neighborhood in fall of 2019 & will be welcoming our first child in a few short months. I work full time as a social worker out of three dialysis facilities in Wisconsin and work amongst some of the most vulnerable during this pandemic.

I wanted to write to provide my opinion regarding the upcoming decision of whether or not to open the pools and playgrounds this summer.

I believe that these facilities, although they typically contribute to an increased quality of life for Wausau residents, pose a higher risk to our vulnerable populations if left open. Working with patients on a daily basis whose lives have been dramatically changed as a result of this virus, (and let's be honest, whose hasn't to some extent), has led me to believe that opening everything back up all at once has dramatically decreased their quality of life. These patients have multiple comorbidities that already impact their wellbeing without the threat of a looming pandemic to also be accountable for. I bring these patients up in this discussion because increasing the number of individuals in group settings without requirements of social distancing in place (or those that no longer care about the well being of others, in my opinion), increases risk for all, but especially those that are older or are not well. This is due to asymptomatic spread.

The number of asymptomatic individuals at pools and playgrounds (namely children, especially those of young ages), are often some of our highest contributors to asymptomatic spread. Not to mention the sheer difficulty in trying to inform a four year old of why they cannot be close to another person, especially if that other person is another four year old. Swimming in water might be fine but what about those kids that spit water or stand way too close to their friends when they talk? What about their parents who chose to forgo social distancing precautions as soon as the safer at home order was overturned?

One of the points being made by those that oppose playgrounds and pools being closed for the summer is that each and every family takes their own risk. I can tell you that from experience this does not work. Even within our family network, those that feel that it is their choice whether or not to remain in contact with whoever they want to, are unable to comprehend why it is dangerous to interact with those of high risk populations. As an individual who has been told they are also high risk (due to pregnancy), it is frankly quite exhausting to have to explain why this is dangerous time and time again and to have to constantly explain to them why they can't come inside or stay at our house. They feel that masking and hand washing are the primary ways to decrease spread. Which they are, but as we know social distancing is even more important as the virus is also airborne.

It is for these four reasons I believe that pools and playgrounds should remain closed for the summer:

1. Inability for some to comprehend, & or care about how their asymptomatic spread could contribute to community spread- many of those that will be engaging in these public facilities are also engaging in other public places without adhering to any guidelines in place for social distancing. Some simply struggle to comprehend how being asymptomatic could pose a risk for others and are only able to think of their own immediate family unit. The virus knows no limit and breaks family barriers.

2. Decreased quality of life for vulnerable populations, who, even if they shelter in place at home, are still at higher risk with cases rising both symptomatic and asymptomatic due to zero restrictions in place, or minimal restrictions in place by select businesses.

Or as stated in number one, a lack of caring by citizens about social distancing. Everyone needs food and needs to gain access to food either through delivery or by going to the grocery store.

3. Increased state to state travel for those that are no longer social distancing. I personally know of someone in our neighborhood who has chosen to go to the state of Illinois and visit with Illinois family three times in the midst of the pandemic. Thus increasing the likelihood of community transmission exceptionally. They and their children would definitely be engaging in play at the pools should the decision to open pools be made.

4. Foregoing some summer activities for one summer while there are so many options, is not going to hurt anyone. There are other options for swimming & engaging in water play. Children can swim at lakes with just their family, run through the sprinkler, or fill up their own pools in their backyard. Although it may be disappointing for these kids, they will be fine going without for one summer with other options to utilize.

The virus continues to exist and take lives of elderly or vulnerable family members, patients etc and makes a bigger case for foregoing pools and playgrounds for one summer than does swimming in a pool or playing at a playground. As stated, there are many other ways to families to engage in fun this summer, without putting others at risk.

I apologize for the lengthiness of this email. I wanted to provide a thoughtful contribution to the discussion that impacts all of us in the ses, & as a medical social worker, felt it was my responsibility to speak on behalf of some of those most vulnerable during this unprecedented time.

Again, I feel that pools and playgrounds should be closed for the 2020 season. I do believe that enforcing the playground closures will be difficult, as some in the neighborhood have indicated they are only looking out for themselves in this situation and will continue to defy orders intended to keep everyone safe. Thus, sadly, I do think that enforcing playgrounds remain closed will be tremendously difficult. Pools, however, can be closed without defiance. Push back- perhaps- but one can't swim in a pool without water in it.

Overall, I feel that looking out for the community as a whole is a much better, and safer solution and will ultimately contribute in some capacity, to curbing the spread within our community, if not the very least, our neighborhood.

Thanks so much for continuing to be our representative and for allowing citizens to participate in this discussion.

Best,

Cynthia Fetting.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jesse Grieb <grieb.jesse@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2020 10:41 PM

To: Patrick Peckham; Tom Kilian; Sarah Watson; Lou Larson; Tom Neal

Subject: Public Pools

23

Dear Committee Members,

My Name is Jesse Grieb. I am a Weston resident and I also created the Facebook groups @Wausau/Weston/Mosinee against canceling children activities and @Marathon county against closing parks/pools/playgrounds (roughly 54 members).

I am e-mail you all today to express my desire for the public pools of Wausau to be opened. The vote you all will participate in tomorrow, June 1st, will set a precedence in the central Wisconsin area as it relates to public pools and I urge you all to look at the new data that has been coming out from the CDC.

New Modeling information for the CDC has stated that the symptomatic fatality rate for individuals 0-49 at .05% (best case) and as much as .1% (worst case) (CDC 2020). Symptomatic hospitalization at 1.7% (best case) and as much as 2.6% worst case. Asymptomatic cases 35% best case and as much as 50% worst case. CDC has also updated their claim that Covid19 does not transmit on surfaces as easily as they first believed.

Covid19 is a new (novel) virus and we should be mindful of this. We also need to take current data and information while making the best decisions for the people. As of today, May 31st, Marathon county as reported 43 covid19 cases (CDC, Cases & Deaths by County 2020). This results in .3% for Wisconsin total cases.

Wausau has limited opportunities for our children to be active. I urge you to consider keeping pools open for the summer. Wisconsin dells resorts are opening up and they receive thousands of guests. Granddaddy's "Gentleman's" club is opening up June 2nd (according to their sign), which I believe to be less sanitary. I believe we as a community can safely instill reasonable and sensible practices while keeping our public safe!

Below are some suggestions.

We could reduce capacity of the pools to better allow social distancing.

We could strongly suggest patrons to limit their time (60-120 minutes) to allow more community members to use the facilities.

We could install hand sanitizer stations at the entrance and pool side for individuals to frequently disinfect their hands.

Chlorine has been shown to inactivate and/or kill Covid19 and water does not seem to be a transmission factor.

I am unable to attend tomorrow's meeting due to work. I appreciate the time to read this. And I appreciate the work each of you do. I urge you all to look at the community and ask yourselves these questions:

"if we close these public activities (mostly used by parents and younger people), what other outlets do we have left?"

"If we set this precedent (closing down public facilities) today in the interest of "public health" (Marathon county positive cases are .3% of Wisconsin's total positive cases) do we follow suit for other illness?"

We are in need of sensible and responsible leadership and guidance! Dr. Fuaci has been inconsistent on the information he is reporting. We need to examine all the data for our community sake!

Thank you for your time,

I appreciate the difficult position you are all in during this current time!

Jesse Grieb

Centers for Disease Control, planning scenarios (2020). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/planning-scenarios.html>

Centers for Disease Control, *Cases & Deaths by County* (2020). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/county-map.html?state=WI>

Business Insider (2020). <https://www.businessinsider.com/anthony-fauci-irreparable-damage-stay-at-home-too-long-2020-5>

<https://www.wsaw.com/content/news/Wisconsin-Dells-Wilderness-Resort-to-open-next-week-570659881.html>

From: Eric Holmson <zimmerguy@icloud.com>  
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 6:24 AM  
To: Patrick Peckham  
Subject: Pools and Parks

(24)

Dear Mr Peckham,

I am writing this morning in hopes that your discussions regarding the parks and pools today revolve around science and facts, not emotion. I am greatly concerned that some peoples fears are infringing on the rights of others.

This discussion should look at the fact that UV lights kills the virus in mere seconds. The argument that the city is not disinfecting the playground is moot. The sun is doing that every second of every day. As for the pools, I think it should be noted they are probably the safest place for a person to be this summer. Disinfectants, such as chlorine kill this virus instantly. Hence the pools disinfectants would do the same.

I know its difficult for many to let science and fact get in the way of a good emotional argument. But, if we start utilizing the facts at our disposal, maybe we don't have to be so quick to shut things down and can start to find ways to keep things open.

Sincerely,

Eric Holmson  
818 Adams St  
Wausau, WI

Sent from my iPad

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From: Becca Dau <bbdau2@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 6:20 AM  
To: Patrick Peckham  
Cc: Tom Kilian; Tom Neal; Sarah Watson; Lou Larson  
Subject: Opening the Pools

(25)

My name is Rebecca Dau, I live at 212 S 5th Ave. I am writing to express my concern for the children in our community. I would like you to consider to find a way to open up the local pools. During this time our children are in need of places they can go to have fun. I have watched as this has personally affected the mental health of myself and my own children not being able to see friends or go to our regular summer places and activities. Please find a way to make this possible, if it means taking away all the pool chairs, lockers, and concessions and simply having a place to swim it would mean so much to my own kids as well as many others.

I hope to see you all this evening at City Hall as well.

Thank you  
Rebecca Dau

--  
Rebecca Dau  
Young Living Independent Distributor  
[bbdau.lifestepseo.com](http://bbdau.lifestepseo.com)

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**From:** Joanne Leonard <jleonard@pcpros.net>

**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 2020 6:59 PM

**To:** Patrick Peckham

**Subject:** Please Open City Pools - Parks and Recreation Committee

(26)

Patrick,

Thank you for your service to the City of Wausau. I'm writing this to urge you to vote in favor of opening the city pools this summer so our children can have some sense of normalcy. They have had everything turned upside down and it is time for the City and citizens to return them to one thing they love to do in the summer and that is swim. With the help of experts in safety, I believe the pools can be opened safely and children and parents can have a great summer. All the things children love to do has been cancelled this summer even though they are the least vulnerable in this COVID warfare. We, as taxpayers, want what is best for the city and its citizens. Now it is time for all of us to start moving forward to a better life than we have had the last 3 months and that includes our children.

Thank you for your time.

Joanne Leonard  
Former County Board Supervisor District #6

Joanne S Leonard  
923 Maple Hill Road  
Wausau WI 54403  
715-573-6918  
jleonard@pcpros.net

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**From:** Don Wiensch <dwawtp@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 2020 7:54 PM

**To:** Patrick Peckham

**Subject:** Opening wausau

(27)

Please, please, please vote to open the playgrounds, pools and parks. We all understand that things will not be normal but are willing to accept the situation and do our best to keep safe. My son is 11 years old and just wants to get out and play and be with his friends. He cannot wait for baseball to start and I don't want to have to tell him no baseball. We live 1 block from the city pool and he cannot wait for it to open. Please let this stuff open up and trust the people will be safe and smart. Our kids need this.

Thanks for listening to us Wausau residents

**From:** Jacob Hoover <jchoover@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2020 3:19 PM  
**To:** Patrick Peckham  
**Subject:** Upcoming City Parks and Recreation committee meeting

28

Patrick,

I live in Wausau, and while I understand the initial concerns on COVID-19 we now are getting more and more data and are finding out that the initial estimates grossly overstated the infection fatality risk.

I am for reopening pools and continuing to keep the parks open. To me it seems obvious that the heavily chlorinated water of a pool isn't going to become a breeding ground for the virus, as the chlorine will kill it. Even the CDC states that there is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread in a pool. (Obviously if someone is sick and they cough/sneeze in someone else face then it can still be transmitted, but that could happen at Wal-Mart just as easily as it could at a pool.)

As for parks and playgrounds, even the CDC recommends staying physically active to keep the mind and body healthy. While I disagree with the CDC on avoiding playground equipment, I do think that the population has the right to choose which activities they feel safe performing. Just because playgrounds open doesn't force anyone to go to them, so those who wish to stay at home and hide are free to do so. For the rest of us, we want to get back to some level of normalcy and get our kids out to be active and healthy again.

Thanks,  
Jacob Hoover

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**From:** Kayden Meverden <meverdenjkk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 30, 2020 7:46 AM  
**To:** Patrick Peckham  
**Subject:** Regarding pools

29

I'm in support of keeping pools closed, as of right now. The cases are only going up. It's impossible to socially distance kids at a pool, let's be honest. To those who think people should be responsible for themselves, people ARE NOT responsible. Keeping your kids home when they feel sick, when the virus is most contagious in the first 14 days when there aren't any symptoms. Too many believe this virus is a hoax in this area. Therefore, they won't follow the guidelines you choose to permit over a so called 'hoax'. Whether you open or not, my kids and I won't be attending this year. I hope you make the correct decision. But, just remember, keeping your staff healthy is just as important. People will survive without a pool for 3 months.

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**From:** Aaron Werth <worthy19@live.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 2020 2:28 PM  
**To:** Patrick Peckham  
**Subject:** Monday's meeting

30

Patrick, we heard that there is an "important" meeting Monday night regarding pools and ball fields, etc. Anyways, as part of your district, I'd like to voice my opinion that I feel that communal pools and ball fields around Wausau **should open up** for the summer.  
Thanks for your representation.

Aaron Werth  
512 Ruder St.  
Wausau, WI

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**From:** Gary Stockwell <garystockwell66@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, May 30, 2020 7:14 PM

**To:** Patrick Peckham

**Subject:** Playgrounds, ballfields and pools

(31)

Hello Patrick,

As a fellow southeast sider, let me first start off by thanking you for your service to our community and the south east side. You make yourself public, open, and truthful, and no matter the situation and weather we agree, I am thankful for your approachability and honesty.

As a parent, coach, and umpire, I am hopeful the neighborhood ball diamonds can remain open for use. As I understand it, staffing to cut grass and maintain the fields has been shortened due to the uncertainty of covid 19. The local Little league would be able to have volunteers undertake this.

In order to keep the children safe, little league has gone through great lengths to come up with a plan to maintain social distancing, eliminate shared equipment, and improve the overall safety of the sport. A few examples of this include but are not limited to: having volunteers (coaches and umpires) wear a protective mask during interaction with the athletes, limit the amount of kids in the dugout to 3, have the bleachers only for players, fans can bring their own chairs and sit or stand down the outside of the fencing down the first and third base lines and behind the outfield fencing (at memorial park, this is an excellent viewpoint for a game). The behind the plate umpire will be moved to behind the pitcher's mound and call the game from there at a distance longer than 6 feet from the pitcher). Chewing of bubblegum and sunflower seeds, a baseball tradition, would be eliminated because it encourages spitting. The list goes on and on, and it really is a very nice, thorough, thought out plan. If we're allowed to play, one thing is for certain: little league will definitely have a different look to it this season.

When it comes to our pools, my family is frequently seen at Memorial pool. I am encouraged to see that the coronavirus doesn't live and spread in chlorine rich environments. Could we possibly not set out all the chairs and tables at the pools this year? We could all bring our own bag chairs or sit on our towels during breaks. This would eliminate the need to disinfect the tables and chairs at the end of each night or in between uses of different people. Also, as a food service manager certified in food safety, I would recommend not selling concessions. This would eliminate hand to hand contact and money exchanges.

As far as the city playgrounds, I understand if you choose to close these. It would be impossible to keep sanitized between uses. I also would understand if you choose to keep them open with the understanding that it is play at your own risk. I've observed that the playgrounds when in use, are being done so respectfully and responsibly. The kids are staying at a distance, and the parents are supervising like never before. My youngest child will still use the playground if allowed to, but I haven't let him yet.

I thank you for your time, understanding, guidance and leadership. I understand the importance of your decisions, and am hopeful we can play baseball at our parks and swim in our pools this summer.

Sincerely,

Gary Stockwell  
1310 Prospect Avenue  
Wausau, WI 54403

Wausau Little League Volunteer Umpire, coach and parent

  
From: Tim Thurs <tim.thurs@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2020 8:25 PM

To: Patrick Peckham

Subject: Wausau Youth Baseball

Patrick, please consider changing our policy on the city parks to #letthemplay. I'm the VP of Baseball for Wausau Youth Baseball and I will be attending the Parks meeting tomorrow. I will at some point ask to speak and would be happy to answer any questions the committee has. We believe we can do this safely come July. Wausau is in the unique position where all our city baseball parks are individual entities (not a large complex) where a single game is played meaning these would be small gatherings of two teams and the sport, by design, is as socially distanced as possible.

While I understand the concern of those that don't want to play, I am not requiring anyone to play. I'm only providing an opportunity for those that want to play.

I hope to see you tomorrow.

--

- Tim Thurs

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From: Josie Kilde <josie.kilde@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2020 8:18 PM

To: Patrick Peckham

Subject: Baseball and activity considerations

Hello Patrick,

First we just want to thank you for all of the hard work you are doing on behalf of our residents during this historic and incredibly difficult time.

We have 3 young boys, ages 6, 8, and 11. They all have played baseball since they were 4 and are very much looking forward to the season. That being said, I encourage you to consider allowing them to play, understanding that modifications will need to be made for the safety of our children and the people in the stands. I feel that baseball is very easy to make modifications for, considering we are outside, can wear masks if needed, can bring our own lawnchairs, blankets and food along. The children do not need to share equipment and can easily maintain social distancing by sitting apart when it is not their turn to bat and when in the outfield they are physically spaced far apart.

As far as the pools and parks, I feel that we as a family can monitor the safety of our children appropriately. We will ensure that they do not congregate when not in the water. We can also bring our own food, chairs, etc to all city parks and pools. This is a very easy work around to some of the challenges that we face right now.

We understand that there are people that have opposing opinions but we are willing to take additional precautions and should be allowed to continue to participate in these activities so that our children can have fun outdoor activities to participate in during the summer months. Thank you so much for your consideration of these activities.

-Josie and Paul Kilde

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**From:** RaeAnn MacKay <wolfpackyouthlacrosse@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2020 9:42 AM

**To:** Jamie Polley; Katie Rosenberg; Patrick Peckham; Tom Kilian; Tom Neal; Becky McElhane; Sarah Watson; Lou Larson

**Subject:**

Dear Mayor Rosenberg, Director Polley, City of Wausau Parks & Recreation Committee Members, & City of Wausau Council President,

To start I want to thank you all for the tireless time and energy you are putting into meetings, phone calls and navigating these strange times. I get that it is sometimes a thankless job and no matter what your decision is you will have criticism. But sometimes to be a leader requires you to be brave.

I wanted to respond to the email that was sent out regarding park usage for youth sports. We are living in a time of fear that is not backed up by facts. I refuse to let people continue to believe that it is safer to cower in fear in our homes rather than encourage kids to get out and play.

To start I believe this virus is deadly, but it is not turning out to be not as deadly as we first thought. We sheltered in place in March, we gathered more information about, this virus, its fatality rate, who it who is at risk, etc. The science does not merit such an extreme response anymore. Especially in a community like ours.

This virus is not going to disappear, it is here for forever! We were only supposed to comply with the safer at home orders to prepare for it. We have done that and now we need to return to normal. Not the new normal, but normal. If we do not get out there and work at developing herd immunity, this will return in the fall with a vengeance. It is less transmittable in the summer months, and we can slowly develop natural immunity. Yes, we can do it slowly and we have. I know the patient numbers at Aspirus, they had 3 critical patients on respirators and 1 death. They were all elderly

The group that you seem to be most worried about is kids. You have the opportunity to provide an opportunity to the citizens of Marathon County and I urge you to do it. If we don't give people an opportunity to meet and play safely you will have those start to throw caution to the wind because the restrictions make no sense.

There must be more common sense inserted into the dialogue along with the science, not fear. Will more people die of Covid. Yes! However, we did our civic duty, we flattened the curve. It is time to get out there and enjoy. Thank you for your time. I can be reached at 715-302-5562 or by responding to this email. Please see below a letter sent to the Vice

President of the United States by a group of Physicians in Texas. Their opinions too should be taken into consideration. Here as well is a link to an article about Lock downs. [https://wmbriggs.com/post/30833/?fbclid=IwAR2Cp8nkmfHZPbPeFyOS4vdZEUHRLQjCH-fP9fUuZ0ZawzuIVkbaA3Q1zO\\_k](https://wmbriggs.com/post/30833/?fbclid=IwAR2Cp8nkmfHZPbPeFyOS4vdZEUHRLQjCH-fP9fUuZ0ZawzuIVkbaA3Q1zO_k)

RaeAnn MacKay  
Wolfpack Lacrosse President  
Bay Valley Lacrosse Association President

The Honorable Mike Pence  
The Coronavirus Task Force, Chair The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Vice President Pence,  
May 22, 2020

We, the undersigned physicians, respectfully and urgently request that our country's businesses and schools be allowed to reopen.

We value every life lost to the novel virus COVID 19, but countless other people have paid an enormous toll as well.

Our patients have suffered needlessly in pain and physical decline with disease progression because of short-sighted government edicts to stop all non-emergency care that is unrelated to COVID19. Some patients now face inevitable death because the diagnosis and treatments were delayed too long. Too many of our patients have suffered far more from the psychological, physical, and economic effects of the shutdown of communities and businesses than the direct impact of COVID 19 itself.

The cumulative knowledge we now have of COVID 19 and the observed devastation of shutting down the economy gives us confidence to request that the American people be given the freedom to engage in commerce and community again immediately.

.1 It is unnecessary to continue threatening to close businesses and prohibit gatherings of people based on case numbers or arbitrary benchmarks, especially when increased testing naturally results in an increase in the number of cases, but hospitalizations have not been overwhelming. It has become clear that COVID19 can be managed by the medical profession— We CAN treat the sick and protect the vulnerable without social and economic lockdown.

The following concepts are based on observable fact and a healthy dose of common sense:

1. We want to bring hope to the people of this country and restore confidence that we can safely live in community with each other again and truly live life without fear. This virus is survivable by greater than 99% of those infected. For those under 60, the estimated infection fatality rate is 0.05%.<sup>2</sup> On average, the infection fatality rate is 0.2%.<sup>3</sup>

2. The overwhelming majority of those infected, perhaps 80%, have no symptoms or mild symptoms at most.<sup>4</sup> We cannot know with certainty how many asymptomatic cases there are or have been.

3. We now know that a well-defined subset of the population is vulnerable to severe illness or death by COVID 19. Our resources should be aimed at protecting and treating the vulnerable

Growing evidence indicates that the unprecedented policy of forcing healthy Americans to quarantine was not necessary to save lives but instead inflicted

devastating harm on 10s of millions of people

promptly treating these persons, specifically nursing home patients, without condemning them to prolonged isolation from the love and comfort of their families and friends.

4. The media is terrifying people, creating crippling fear that has drained the life out of our society. Suicide hotlines have been overwhelmed with calls. Patients are suffering from medical neglect because of the dangerous media narrative instructing people to stay home when they are sick.

5. Public Health officials and administrators have been interfering with medical decision-making. Some elected officials and state boards have prevented the use of safe and FDA approved medications in the treatment of COVID-19, an unprecedented interference with physician judgement. Physicians are also pressured to count deaths in a way that inflates the true infection fatality rate. We cannot reassure our patients and confidently treat the sick when we are using skewed and inaccurate data.

6. Treating this disease early will prevent hospitalizations and encourage those who are fearful. Mounting evidence supports the use of safe, inexpensive, and readily available medicines and vitamin and mineral supplementation as well as newer treatment in development. We must do our best to use the information we have to treat patients early in the disease process. We need not fear overwhelming the hospitals if we treat the sick early in physicians' offices, or at patients' homes, before they become sick enough to be hospitalized.

7. Many, many counties have been subjected to senseless suffering due to the broad centralized approach of state governments. As of May 11, 50% of US counties have ZERO deaths, 63% (1,996) of all counties have no more than ONE death each.<sup>5, 6</sup> This is incredibly encouraging news for our country. We need to allow these counties to fully function, giving them the freedom to support their neighboring communities that may be experiencing calamity.

8. Natural widespread immunity can be achieved safely without waiting for a vaccine. Contracting mild and largely survivable diseases is a natural process of building immunity and strengthens our communities. We have always and will continue to identify and protect the vulnerable when possible.

9. It is imperative that the public schools be opened on schedule this fall. The educational, psychological, and social impact of sheltering at home has been devastating. Although many districts have made heroic efforts at teaching on-line, the lack of routine, isolation, and inability to effectively interact with students has been a poor substitute for the schoolroom. Children are the least susceptible to significant COVID-19 disease.

10. Mass testing of citizens should not be used to create policy that restricts an individual's livelihood and freedom to participate in society, and absolutely should not be used to threaten businesses and counties with repeated closure. We oppose heavy-handed surveillance, scapegoating of individuals, and neighborhood snitch programs. This Draconian approach to dealing with a respiratory virus is detrimental and will shatter the goodwill of our society. We have learned from this experience and are prepared to face any future contagion in an organized, efficient way without the added economic and social catastrophe that resulted from national shutdown. We will encourage and educate our patients, engage in community, commerce, education, and worship with our fellow citizens. We cannot accept the current dysfunction in society as the "new normal." Our goal is to lead with hope and courage instead of fear and confusion. We want to help restore a renewed sense of purpose in our communities and allow people to pursue a livelihood and participate in music, sports, and art again. Our medical professionals are ready to serve this nation according to the time-honored Hippocratic Oath that calls us to serve with respect and compassion and, above all, to do no harm.

Understanding that we are all human, and as such

susceptible to infections which will occur again. In fact, living life to the fullest means living with risks

and mitigating those risks in common sense ways that free us to embrace our humanity and the need to

Signed,

Sheila Page, D.O., President & Primary Author Texas Chapter of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons

Hal Scherz, MD, FACS, FAAP

Secretary, Docs 4 Patient Care Foundation

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**From:** Douglas Jackson <douglasjackson801@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 30, 2020 2:05 PM  
**To:** Patrick Peckham  
**Subject:** City Parks and sports fields

35

I am a volunteer coach for Wausau Youth Baseball and Softball. It's my opinion that if bars and restaurants can be open, hundreds can flock to Walmart, Fleet Farm, etc, etc. Kids are separated on a baseball field by at the least 15 ft around bases and outfield, with maybe the exception of the batter in the batters box. I believe we can keep our kids and others safe while still being able to enjoy a game we all love. These kids have been stripped of enough this spring. I hope my voice will keep these kids playing ball while at the same time we do our parts as coaches to keep them safe. Thank you!

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**From:** Daniel Graveen <dgraveen1976@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 2020 8:36 PM  
**To:** Patrick Peckham  
**Subject:** Summer pools and youth baseball

34

To whom it may concern,  
Please consider opening pools and baseball fields for the youth of the community. I have coached summer baseball in the wausau area for the past 6 years. My sons both play rec league and travel baseball. Our travel baseball organization has been able to be practicing for the past two weeks and tournaments are being ran in the southern part of the state. I understand the decisions that you need to make are not easy. But with proper social distancing guidelines in place from Little League of America which is the governing body we follow in wausau, I am confident that if you allow activites like baseball and softball and swimming these activites will be as safe as going to Walmart or any other crowded place in wausau. Thanks Dan Graveen

Sent from my iPhone





# Division of Food and Recreational Safety

May 21, 2020

## Guidelines for Reopening Pools and Water Attractions

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread through water. However, as pools often welcome groups of **people, it's important that everyone follow social distancing practices**, and that pool operators ensure proper pool operation, and spacing and cleaning/sanitizing of deck furniture. Below are recommendations and advice for the following:

- General public
- Pool operators
- Various types of public pools and water attractions

### Recommendations for General Public

- Swimmers should follow the aquatic **facility's rules for social distancing and personal hygiene**.
- Stay home when you are sick, especially with these symptoms: vomiting, diarrhea, or any [COVID-19-related symptoms](#).

### Recommendations for Pool Operators

*Reminder: Public pools and water attractions must follow any local public health orders that would prohibit them from operating.*

- Follow the general guidance above and [CDC guidance for swimming pools and water attractions](#).

- Each licensed public pool or water attraction facility should develop and follow a safety plan that describes enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces, employee health and hygiene requirements, and procedures for ensuring that the pool or water attraction is properly operating, including the maintenance of appropriate disinfectant levels.
- Shower rooms and toilets rooms should be frequently cleaned and sanitized.
- It is recommended that the drinking fountain not be used and that patrons be provided with bottled water.
- Each licensed facility should have someone on property to ensure that guidelines and regulations are followed. A facility may appoint an attendant or other staff member to perform these duties, as long as the facility is otherwise properly staffed. A lifeguard, while serving as a lifeguard, may not perform duties of the attendant, such as monitoring social distancing.
- For any pool, adequate disinfection will inactivate coronavirus, so careful attention must be paid to ensure that the pool has adequate disinfectant, proper ORP values in pools where that value is measured, and proper recirculation.
- Consider extra spacing for deck furniture.



**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**

Division of Food and Recreational Safety

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<https://www.datcp.wi.gov>

- Frequently clean and sanitize deck furniture (e.g., between users).
- Install hand washing or sanitizing stations (at least 60% alcohol) at the entrance to your facility, and at key locations throughout the facility where customers are likely to contact shared equipment. Encourage customers to use them.
- For any pool, proper recirculation will help to ensure that water is properly filtered. Frequently ensure that recirculation is adequate, and monitor disinfectant levels to ensure that the water has adequate disinfectant.
- The usual [CDC protocol for fecal accidents](#) must be followed for fecal accidents.
- For facilities with lifeguards, ensure first aid and lifeguard staff have proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for first aid and rescues. Visit [American Red Cross](#) for more.
- Do not let any employee (including yourself) who is exhibiting or has recently exhibited COVID-19 symptoms, or is taking any medication that suppresses symptoms, come to work for at least 72 hours after symptoms subside in the absence of the suppressant medication, or they have been cleared by a medical professional.
  - CDC offers [tips for identifying COVID-19 symptoms](#)
  - Employees who are well but have a family member sick with COVID-19 should notify their employer and refer to CDC guidance for [how to conduct a risk assessment](#) of their potential exposure.

## Recommendations for Various Types of Public Pools & Water Attractions

### Low use pools (condo, apartment, homeowner association, hotel/motel)

- The number of patrons in the enclosure should be based on the consideration that patrons may travel between the deck and into the basin. Pool capacity should be limited to allow for 6 feet of space for each patron at all times in the pool and on the deck (except for family groups).
- For whirlpools, it is recommended to measure the whirlpool and ensure social distancing of 6 feet. This may limit the whirlpool to one person.
- For low-use pools, consider using a reservation system to control access. One example is a family could reserve the pool for a half hour or more, depending on demand.
- It is recommended that exercise classes maintain 6 feet distance between participants.

### Wading pools and splash pads

- Wading pools and splash pads should be staffed by an on-site attendant to monitor use.
- Travel through splash pad should allow for 6 feet of social distancing. Patrons should be encouraged to take turns moving through the splash pad.

### Municipal pools, fitness centers, school pools, pools at waterparks, and all water attractions

- There should be an adequate number of attendants to ensure 6 feet of distancing between patrons who are not part of the



same family. Facilities should consider placing markings on the floor to help patrons know where to stand.

- Patrons not part of the same family should follow social distancing guidelines.
- Operators should calculate how many occupants may be in the pool area so that patrons who are not members of the same family have 6 feet of spacing between each other.
- It is recommended that exercise classes maintain 6 feet between participants.

#### Competition pools or pools designed for lap swimming (lanes are 7-8 feet wide)

- One patron per lane at a time is suggested for lap swimming or competition.
- Patrons are expected to swim in the middle of the lane to allow for maximum distance between heads (approximately 7 feet).

#### Leisure rivers

- Traffic in the river must allow for 6 feet of distancing between riders who are not members of the same family.

#### Recommendations for slides

- Timing of sending riders down the slide must allow for only one person to be in the plunge basin at a time.

#### Wave pools and other rides with water moving patrons in a manner that has potential for close contact

- Patrons load should be restricted to ensure 6 feet of spacing between patrons at all times during the activity.

#### Recommendations for swimming lessons

- Follow [American Red Cross Learn to Swim guidance](#). This could mean that only lessons for more advanced swimmers, or parent-child lessons, will initially be allowed in order to discourage close contact of non-family members.

#### More Resources

- [CDC: Resources for Businesses and Employers](#)
- [OSHA: Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)
- [CDC: Healthy Swimming](#)



#### **Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**

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# WISCONSIN

GUIDANCE ON PREPARING WORKPLACES FOR COVID-19



ENTERTAINMENT AND AMUSEMENT



The entertainment and amusement sector includes a diverse array of businesses dedicated to bringing people together. The sector encompasses more than 4,000 businesses and 65,000 employees dedicated to providing meaningful social interactions among Wisconsin residents and visitors. However, almost all of these businesses have been shuttered completely to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This industry is important for social connections and fosters a sense of celebration and togetherness among residents, but the communal nature of these facilities makes it especially challenging to accommodate necessary social distancing and sanitation during this time. This document is intended to provide guidance for businesses looking to take steps to allow their businesses to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

This guide includes instructions for entertainment and amusement venues that cater to groups of people in indoor or outdoor settings, including but is not limited to theaters, amusement parks, waterparks, arcades, trampoline parks, sports simulator/practice facilities, bowling alleys and related establishments.

In addition, please see the "**General Guidance for All Businesses**" document for guidance that applies to all industries, and please consult the other available industry guides as relevant for your specific business type.

Keeping employees and customers safe is the number-one priority for all businesses. This resource provides guidelines for protecting both of these groups. Businesses are expected to be proactive about compliance with rules and take definitive action to enforce the rules. It is not sufficient to post signage requesting that guests maintain distancing or to anticipate that staff will be able to manage customer interactions in real time (e.g., by directing guests verbally to separated facilities or wiping down surfaces as guests approach).

## Recommendations for Entertainment and Amusement

Entertainment and amusement businesses face unique challenges, as successful business operations typically require daily interaction with a large number of people. The following minimum requirements apply to businesses in this category that are planning to reopen.

### Employee health and hygiene

- ▶ Employees who have a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to work.
- ▶ Maintain an adequate supply of paper goods, soap and hand sanitizer to allow proper hand hygiene among employees and customers.
- ▶ Provide tissues for proper cough/sneeze etiquette and no-touch disposal receptacles.
- ▶ Emphasize effective hand hygiene, including washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before preparing or eating food; after using the bathroom; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- ▶ Wear single-use disposable gloves when performing cleaning and disinfection/sanitizing duties.

- ▶ Ensure first aid and lifeguard staff have proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to wear for first aid and rescues. (Visit the American [Red Cross](#) website for advice about safer first aid, CPR and lifeguarding.)

### Clean and disinfect

- ▶ Single-use gloves should be worn.
- ▶ Rides or amusements that cannot be sanitized between uses (for example, play equipment in common areas) should be closed.
- ▶ High-contact areas such as doorknobs, buttons, counters, armrests, bleachers and stair rails should be cleaned frequently, or after each user if feasible.



PROTECT



WASH OFTEN



DISINFECT



CAUTION



- ▶ Bathrooms, locker rooms and shower rooms should be cleaned and sanitized frequently.
- ▶ Sanitizing wipes should be discarded after each use or when visibly soiled. Use one wipe per item/area.
- ▶ Guest touch locations such as kiosks, interactive displays and video/arcade games should have sanitizing wipes provided nearby.
- ▶ Attractions utilizing shared equipment (e.g., controls/handles, harnesses, helmets, shoes, balls, tables, seats) should be sanitized between uses.
- ▶ All cloth materials should be washed at the highest possible heat setting and dried thoroughly.
- ▶ Follow restaurant guidelines for food service areas.
- ▶ At swimming pools and waterparks, staff must monitor table and chair usage and sanitize chair and table surfaces between patrons.
- ▶ Lifeguards must not be assigned to additional duties.
- ▶ Sanitize surfaces using an [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-registered disinfectant](#) or a bleach solution. Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
  - ▶ 5 tablespoons (one-third of a cup) bleach per gallon of water for non-food contact surfaces.
  - ▶ 1 teaspoon bleach per gallon of water for food contact surfaces.
  - ▶ *Do not mix* bleach and ammonia-based chemical solutions.

## Face masks and cloth face coverings

- ▶ Employers should recommend that employees wear face masks or cloth face coverings when social distancing is not feasible in the work environment. They may also recommend usage of face masks or cloth face coverings for public-facing activities.

- ▶ Ensure your employees are wearing face coverings properly. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance on how to properly wear a face covering and offers [tutorials for how to make one](#).
- ▶ If customers will not be able to stay six feet away from others, recommend that they bring their own face mask or covering. Provide face masks for customers to use at your facility if they did not bring one, and provide adequate trash receptacles for disposing of used masks. Considerations should be made for individuals who are unable or unwilling to wear a mask or cloth face cover.

## Business operations

- ▶ Ensure that you have an adequate supply of single-use paper towels, utensils, PPE (masks, if available and single-use gloves) and soap/sanitizer on hand to ensure employees are able to follow best practices. Enforce use of these items when interacting with customers unless otherwise specified in the guidelines.
- ▶ Encourage staff to avoid sharing work tools and equipment (such as desks and phones) if possible. If it is necessary to share, sanitize the tool/equipment before and after each use.
- ▶ Provide employees with training on new processes and procedures.
- ▶ Consider creating alternating work teams where possible, to ensure that should some staff become infected, you will have adequate staff to maintain operations while following isolation/quarantine guidelines for any team members who worked with infected persons.

## Customer health and safety

- ▶ Customer capacity should be reduced to ensure adequate social distancing if at all possible.
- ▶ Customers should be denied entry once the maximum capacity for safe social distancing has been reached. Offer to notify waiting customers via text message when space becomes available.
- ▶ Eliminate unnecessary physical contact between staff and visitors, and maintain social distancing with a six-foot distance between individuals whenever possible.
- ▶ Install stickers or arrows on the floor/ground, directing customer traffic patterns to minimize interactions, and maintain a six-foot distance between customers at queuing areas such as cashier stations or loading areas.
- ▶ For businesses that require queuing, consider using a digital tool/platform to allow guests to reserve times, and thus minimize on-site lines. Space out appointment intervals to accommodate additional cleaning and sanitizing of equipment between users.
- ▶ Consider use of physical barriers between adjacent areas such as bowling lanes, driving range tees or queuing areas.
- ▶ Amusements with seating should maintain a minimum of six feet between household groups. Non-compliant benches, booths, seats and machines should be physically marked with tape or barriers to prevent use.
- ▶ Theater seating should provide at least two empty seats between household groups. The maximum household group size allowed should be six people. Offer cashless and contactless transactions whenever possible.
- ▶ When exchanging paper and coin money, do not touch your face afterward. Ask customers to place cash on the counter rather than directly into your hand. Place money on the counter (not in hand) when providing change back to customers. Clean the counter between each customer at checkout.
- ▶ Consider adding clear plastic barrier protection at the cashier or entrance desk with a pass-through opening to exchange items as necessary. Registration and/or cashier desks must be six feet apart.
- ▶ At swimming pools and waterparks, attendants must ensure that tables and chairs maintain adequate distance and that group size does not exceed 10 people.
- ▶ Lifeguards must not be assigned to additional duties.

## Additional customer protections

- ▶ Post signage at entrances to facilities letting customers know about changes to your policies and reminding individuals experiencing COVID-like symptoms to stay at home.
- ▶ Install sanitizing stations (with at least 60% alcohol if hand sanitizer is provided) at the entrance to your facility and at key locations throughout the facility where customers are likely to contact shared equipment. Encourage customers to use them.



- ▶ Remove all unnecessary touchpoints, especially those that cannot be sanitized between uses. Examples include the use of pens to sign receipts (cashless and contactless transactions are recommended), benches, interactive displays, drinking fountains, photo props or shared equipment.
- ▶ No reusable items (e.g., theater popcorn boxes, refillable drink containers) should be allowed.
- ▶ Utilize disposable instead of reusable items whenever possible.
- ▶ Provide adequate trash receptacles and increase removal frequency to accommodate additional waste.
- ▶ Continue offering virtual experiences and curbside pickup of physical goods to accommodate all customers if possible.
- ▶ Discourage customers from touching other participants' equipment (e.g., retrieving other customer's stray ball).
- ▶ Equipment should be secured and provided to guests upon request. No shared equipment (e.g., tubes, balls, toys) should be used.

## Programmed event guidelines

- ▶ Programmed events should be limited to 10 persons at a time in any given space, expanding to 50 people in Phase 2 of the Badger Bounce Back plan.
- ▶ Where possible, event attendance should be staggered to minimize overlap and reduce density of participants.
- ▶ Consider designating alternate offerings for at-risk populations.
- ▶ Gatherings should be invitation-only or include a process to collect participant lists, in case contact tracing becomes necessary.

## Specific considerations for swimming pools and water attractions

- ▶ Follow the general guidance above and CDC guidance for swimming pools and water attractions when posted at [CDC Healthy Swimming](#).
- ▶ Each licensed public pool or water attraction facility must develop and follow a safety plan that includes enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces, employee health and hygiene, and ensuring that the pool or water attraction is properly operated with appropriate disinfectant levels.
- ▶ Each licensed facility must have a designated person on site to ensure that guidelines and regulations are followed. A facility may appoint an attendant or other staff member to perform these duties, as long as the facility is otherwise properly staffed. **A lifeguard, while serving as a lifeguard, may not perform duties of the attendant** or be given additional duties that distract from the responsibilities of lifeguarding.
- ▶ For any pool, adequate disinfection will inactivate coronavirus, so careful attention must be paid to ensure that the pool has adequate disinfectant, proper ORP values in pools where that value is measured, and proper recirculation.
- ▶ The usual [CDC protocol for fecal accidents](#) must be followed.

## Low-use pools (condo, apartment, homeowner association, hotel/motel)

- ▶ The maximum number of patrons allowed in an enclosure must be based on the consideration that patrons may travel between the deck and the basin. Pool capacity must be reduced to half of the normal maximum patron load to allow for six feet of space (a six-foot radius, or 144 square feet) for each patron (except for family groups) in the pool and on the deck at all times. Occupancy of the enclosure will be limited to the number of patrons allowed in the pool basin, as patrons are expected to move into and out of the water, and will need adequate space to do so given limited deck space.
- ▶ For whirlpools, measure the whirlpool and ensure six feet of distance and enforce this. This means a whirlpool may potentially need to be limited to one person using it at a time.
- ▶ Low-use pools may want to consider a reservation system to control access. For example, a family could reserve the pool for half an hour at a time, depending on demand.

## Competition pools or pool areas used for lap swimming (with lanes seven to eight feet wide)

- ▶ One patron per lane at a time is allowable for lap swimming or competition. Patrons are expected to swim in the middle of the lane to allow for maximum distance between heads (approximately seven feet).

## Wading pools and splash pads

- ▶ Wading pools and splash pads must be staffed by an attendant who is on site to monitor use.
- ▶ Maintain six feet of distance between people not from the same household group.
- ▶ Travel routes through a splash pad must allow for six feet of distance, so patrons should be encouraged to take turns moving through the splash pad.

## Municipal pools, fitness centers, school pools and all pools at waterparks

- ▶ There must be an adequate number of attendants on hand to ensure proper distancing and limit group sizes to 10 people or families.

## Leisure rivers

- ▶ Traffic in the river must allow for six feet of distancing between riders who are not members of the same family.

## Slides

- ▶ Timing of sending riders down the slide must allow for only one person to be in the plunge basin at a time.
- ▶ Wave pools and other rides that involve water moving patrons in a manner that may cause unavoidable close contact between patrons
- ▶ Patron load must always be restricted to ensure adequate spacing during the activity.

## Swimming lessons

- ▶ Follow “[Learn to Swim](#)” guidance from the American Red Cross. This is likely to mean that only lessons for more advanced swimmers or parent-child lessons will be allowable initially, in order to avoid close contact of non-family members.



## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WISCONSIN'S REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS:

7 Rivers Alliance  
Centergy  
Madison Region  
Economic Partnership  
Milwaukee 7

Momentum West  
Prosperity Southwest  
Grow North  
The New North  
Visions Northwest