



## Health Order Allowing Partial Opening of Campgrounds in La Crosse County

**Date Notice Takes Effect: 04.24.2020**

In an effort to balance reducing risk of community spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 with the needs of the community, Jen Rombalski, Director of the La Crosse County Health Department, is allowing campgrounds in La Crosse County to partially open with specific criteria. This Health Order will be in effect as long as Safer at Home, Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Andrea Palm's Emergency Order #28 is in effect.

WI State Statute provides the local health officer the authority to take all measures necessary to prevent, suppress and control the spread of communicable disease. As Health Officer of the La Crosse County Health Department, Rombalski stresses that appropriate measures such as this Health Order will minimize the spread of COVID-19 in La Crosse County. Community cooperation with this order will help reduce disease transmission and return our county to normal routines sooner rather than later.

### Partial Operation Criteria

1. Campgrounds shall only open independent campsites.
2. All seasonal site camping units must be totally independent (have access to water through water tank or hook up and have a waste disposal system).
3. No more than 50% of the total campground capacity shall be occupied.
4. Priority should be given to:
  - a. Those who use the site as their primary source of residence for the summer months (April – October);
  - b. Seasonal campers that do not have alternate housing available;
  - c. "Essential Workers" living or working in La Crosse County without other housing options;
  - d. First responders who need to use a campground for Covid-19 quarantine or isolation-related housing;
  - e. Other exemptions with prior permission of the Local Health Officer or assigned designee.

Additionally, campgrounds shall abide by the following:

- Recreational and weekend camping is not allowed beyond what is permissible in the criteria above.
- No new reservations shall be accepted for any sites until after June 1, 2020 (honor only existing reservations).
- Tent sites and other dependent type unit sites must remain closed until Safer at Home Order #28 is lifted or expires.
- Backup toilets need to be made available as per Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) requirements AND: (1) should be labeled with signage indicating they are for emergency use only AND (2) be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily during normal hours of operation. Signs should be posted saying when cleaning is taking place and to call the office if there is an issue with the restroom facility.
- There shall be no scheduled activities or gatherings greater than 10 or more.
- All features such as mini golf, swimming pools, trampoline pillows, beaches, and playgrounds shall remain closed and have appropriate signage notifying campers of closure.
- Any lodge or group area including arcades shall remain closed.

- If your campground store intends to be open in a limited capacity (firewood/ice/basic supplies), you need to contact the health department for guidance (limited to number of customers and age of customers).
- All scheduling and reservations should be done online or on the phone when possible. For places with normal onsite registration, a system for contactless registration should be implemented.
- Operators knowing of campers arriving from out of state or out of the county, must notify the health department to discuss quarantine requirements.

#### Key Messages for Campground Users:

1. No visitors will be allowed to the campground or campsite while the Safer at Home order is in place.
2. Campground users shall always practice physical distancing of 6 feet or more when outside their camper unit (considered their household).
3. All campsites are limited to members of a single household or living unit. All sites are limited to fewer than 10 people.
4. If campground users have any signs of illness (cough, fever, body aches, extreme fatigue), please stay home and do not travel to the campground.
5. If campground users begin to show signs of illness while at the campground, they must self-isolate within the camping unit and call the health department.
6. Require campground users to bring trash bags, food, and supplies from their local area (if outside La Crosse County) to avoid unnecessary trips to local stores.
7. Request campground users fill gas tanks and propane tanks in their local area (if traveling from outside La Crosse County) to avoid stopping at local gas stations/stores.
8. Advise campground users to use the shower and bathroom in their camping unit.
9. Advise campground users to regularly wash their hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds, avoid touching their face and cover their cough.
10. Campground operator may adjust policies to keep the campground facilities and seasonal campsite users safe to avoid COVID-19 disease transmission.
11. Recommend that campers contact campgrounds prior to coming to the campground for any possible changes or notifications.

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