

**WI Department of Health Services (DHS) has issued an order prohibiting mass gathering of 10 people or more.**

**Gov. Evers Directed DHS to Mandate closure of all K-12 Public and Private Schools to start on March 18th after 5pm**

**Effective at 5:00pm on Tuesday March 17th 2020, all Bars and Restaurants shall close in the State of WI. Restaurants may remain open for take-out or delivery service only.**

**Cases in Polk County: There are No confirmed cases of Coronavirus in Polk County.** There has been a confirmed case of the coronavirus with a resident of Pierce County. This individual attended an event at Osceola High School this past Saturday.

- Students or staff who participated in the Destination Imagination Osceola event are considered to be at low-risk for being exposed to the coronavirus.
- The recommendation is for those who were in attendance at this event to self-monitor for fever and respiratory illness symptoms and to self-isolate if symptoms appear. Please contact your local health department and your healthcare provider if symptoms appear.

**Community Spread:** Community spread of COVID-19 is being identified in some areas of Wisconsin. This means that there are people who have tested positive who have no known exposures to a known case nor did they travel to a location where there is known community spread. Currently, community spread of COVID-19 has not been identified in Polk County.

**Vaccine:** There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often

**Symptoms:** Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- shortness of breath

**Spread:** The virus that causes COVID-19 is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but **this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.**

**Prevention:** People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Stay home when you are sick
- Clean frequently touched surfaces often
- Cover your sneeze or cough with a tissue and toss the tissue in the trash

**For even more local updates and information you can also contact 2-1-1 at 877-947-2211**