

EMERGENCY ORDER #10 FAQ

Why only focus on gatherings and not business capacity limits?

We look at the data to make decisions about how to change orders. With the high level of disease in our community, gatherings are a main driver of disease spread. One quarter of people who test positive for COVID-19 report attending a gathering or party in the two weeks before testing positive. In addition, national data continue to indicate gatherings—particularly in crowded indoor environments with poor ventilation—remain a significant risk.

Do you think this will make a difference?

We are hopeful that people will follow this order and that it will decrease the amount of COVID-19 circulating in our community by preventing gatherings that spread COVID-19. Because we are not able to be in every building and home in the county to ensure compliance, it is imperative that everyone follows the order and ensures compliance within their own social circles. If we do this, yes, this order will reduce disease spread.

What will you do for enforcement?

We are hopeful that everyone will act in the best interests of the community and their friends and family and follow the order. If we are made aware of violations through local law enforcement or people contacting us directly through compliance@publichealthmdc.com we will follow-up as appropriate.

No other orders have had an end date, why does this one?

It can take up to 14 days for COVID-19 to incubate before someone tests positive. This order has an end date of 28 days, or 2 incubation periods, so that we can assess if the order has been effective in that time and make adjustments as necessary.

Will you do a new order before this one expires?

Yes. Public health measures are not an obstacle to a return to normalcy, they are the roadmap to faster and sustained recovery. Americans are coping with job losses, school closures, social isolation, and fears around health and safety. Many people are frightened, angry, and frustrated. We share this frustration. We want the economy and our schools to open. At the same time, we want to protect our families, friends, and neighbors from the virus, and we know that if we don't, there will be even worse consequences for the economy and for schools.

How does this order impact UW operations and sports?

Public Health does not have authority over the University of Wisconsin-Madison activities, as they are a state entity.

Why limit outside gatherings more? Aren't they safer?

The level of disease spread in the community is so high that no gathering is completely safe.