



Chippewa County Department of Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chippewa County Declares Local Emergency around COVID-19

(Chippewa Falls, WI) – On March 16, 2020, Chippewa County declared a local state of emergency and activated the Incident Command System (ICS). Currently, there are **no confirmed cases** of COVID-19 in Chippewa County. Declaring a local emergency and activating ICS is one way to coordinate response efforts of local agencies, in order to best respond to this heightened situation.

As there are no cases currently, the efforts in Chippewa County are focused on **mitigation**, which means working with community partners, organizations, and individuals on what they should do to slow the spread of disease. Chippewa County Department of Public Health is following recommendations from and working closely with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Current recommendations include:

- **Ban on Mass Gatherings over 50 People:** Governor Tony Evers [issued a ban](#) on social gatherings over 50 people, which will be enforced beginning at 12:01 AM on March 17, 2020.
- **Prepare. Don't Panic:** The CDC recommends that high risk populations (older adults, immune compromised, and those with chronic lung conditions) have enough household supplies, groceries, and medication on hand to stay at home for a longer period of time. Those in the general population should have an [emergency kit ready](#).
- **The Health Department is Your Communication Source:** This is a rapidly evolving situation, and the Health Department is your source for up-to-date communication. In the event of a positive case in Chippewa County, the Health Department will be the one to communicate that information to you.

For more information, visit <https://www.co.chippewa.wi.us/government/covid-19-coronavirus-disease-2019>. If you have specific questions, contact the Health Department at health@co.chippewa.wi.us or 715-726-7900.

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