



Chippewa County Department of Public Health

711 N Bridge Street, Room 121, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
P: 715.726.7900 / 1.800.400.3678 / F: 715.726.7910
www.co.chippewa.wi.us/ccdph



To: Chippewa County Greenhouses and Landscaping Businesses
From: Angela Weideman, Health Officer/Director
Date: April 17, 2020
Re: COVID-19 Impacts to Greenhouses and Landscaping Businesses Operations

Safer at Home Order

Per Governor Tony Evers' Safer at Home order, greenhouses, retail landscaping businesses and their suppliers are considered essential businesses or operations, so long as the service is necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, businesses, and buildings.

If a greenhouse, retail landscaping business, or supplier is not necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, businesses, and buildings, they may still continue Minimum Basic Operations, including fulfilling nonessential curb-side pick-up, deliveries, mailing parcels, and receiving parcels if it can be done by one person in a room or confined space, including a car or truck. Services cannot require a signature by the customer.

On April 16, 2020, the Safer at Home order was extended until 8 AM on Tuesday, May 26 or until a superseding order is issued.

If you determine that your business is an essential business per Safer at Home order and other guidance provided by the State of Wisconsin, then you will be required to comply with the guidelines set out below to continue to be open for business.

Requirements to Stay Open

- Customers may enter only for the purpose of ordering, pick up, and paying.
- Employees and customers must remain 6-feet apart at all times both when indoors and outdoors.
- Food and drink may not be consumed on the premises, either indoors or outdoors.
- No seating may be provided.
- Any self-serve operations of beverage stations, food stations, etc., are not allowed, and customers are not allowed to self-dispense any unpacked food or beverages. Examples: self-serve ice cream, coffee, etc.
- Have hand washing stations and/or hand sanitizers available throughout your establishment.
 - Employees should be washing their hands frequently, and avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day.
- No teaching sessions are allowed, such as make-your-own planter, how-to-make ice cream, etc. Any activities that bring customers together in a small area are not allowed.



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Additional Precautions to Lower Risk

- Slow growing: If able, greenhouses can try to slow the growing of their plants, flowers, etc., to have the peak later in the growing season.
- Reduce work hours for employees to the minimum needed to keep up operations.
- Educate staff members on requesting groups of people to separate while shopping.
- Tape off 6-foot by 6-foot boxes on the floor of areas where customers line up, such as at check-out registers.
- Encourage outdoor selling – have products available outside, and replenish from indoor greenhouse stock as products are being purchased. The less customers entering the enclosed space of the greenhouse, the better.
- Encourage the use of delivery service or curbside pickup service. Customers could call ahead for orders, and orders could be waiting outside, ready for quick pay and pick up.
- Have one employee handle all money transactions when able.
- Discourage hand shaking or other forms of physical contact.
- When able, prop open doors and windows.
- It is recommended that employees with any respiratory illness stay home until they are symptom free for three days.

At this time, these are the current requirements. However, this may change at any time due to the rapidly evolving situation and updated guidance being provided by the state. Updates will be provided as they become available.

As a friendly reminder, any customer or employee that enters your business has the potential to put yourself, your family, your other employees, and your business at risk. COVID-19 is rapidly spreading, and can be carried by individuals before they show any symptoms.

The Health Department appreciates your cooperation. We understand your business is your livelihood. In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, we all need to work together as a community. Following the guidance and recommendations provided will help make this happen.

If your business is not following the guidance in the Safer at Home order, and requirements listed above, your business could be ordered to close temporarily.

Best Regards,

Angela Weideman, Health Officer/Director