Chippewa County Department of Public Health

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To: Chippewa County Municipalities, School Districts, and Parks and Recreation

From: Angela Weideman, Health Officer/Director

Date: April 24, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Green and Open Spaces

COVID-19 has greatly disrupted our lives, including how people gather and play. Staying mentally and physically well during this unprecedented time is important. While green spaces and open spaces can offer health benefits, it is important that you follow the steps below to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

If you would like to visit green or open spaces:

- Visit parks that are close to your home.
- Prepare before you visit. Public restrooms and water fountains may not be available.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- If you are sick, stay home.
- If a space is crowded, go home.
- Do not use playgrounds or other equipment.
- Do not participate in group sports, like football, basketball, baseball, and soccer.
    - These activities typically require participants who are not from the same household or living unit to be in close proximity, which increases their potential for exposure.
    - The virus is also spread via touch; therefore, touching sports equipment and then touching hands to eyes, nose, or mouth can spread the virus.
    - If you would like to play catch with someone living in your household, that is encouraged.
- Only interact with people that live in your household.

At this time, local health officials may close public parks and open spaces if it becomes too difficult ensure social distancing or the areas are being mistreated. We want to avoid having to do this, so we are asking you to please help enforce safe green spaces. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Angela Weideman

Angela Weideman, Health Officer/Director