



Chippewa County Department of Public Health

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www.co.chippewa.wi.us/ccdph



To: Chippewa County Residents
From: Angela Weideman, Health Officer/Director
Date: June 3, 2020
Re: Thrift and Rummage Sales

COVID-19 is a contagious virus that is spread easily between people, even if an infected person doesn't show signs of being sick. We don't currently have treatments or vaccines for COVID-19, which has required us to work together to support and encourage the public to limit contact with people who they don't live with as much as possible. As you well know, people have made immense sacrifices to keep our community safe.

As we look to the future, we all need to do our part to reopen our community in the safest way possible. CCDPH strongly recommends community organizations and members follow guidance provided by Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) as they make decisions on holding thrift and rummage sales.

DHS Guidance on Thrift and Rummage Sales

You and your community should cancel or postpone all in-person yard and rummage sales. It is not safe to go to public gatherings, such as yard or rummage sales, because COVID-19 is still spreading in Wisconsin.

You should avoid all in-person gatherings with people who are not a part of your home. This applies to events like yard, garage, or rummage sales. We at the State are tracking COVID-19 cases and are learning more about it every day. We will share what we learn and will let you know when it is safe to return to normal activity.

What if I want to hold a yard or rummage sale?

You have a few options:

- You can hold a no-contact yard or rummage sale.
- You can post and sell items using a virtual community, garage sale apps, or online sales platform. These options allow sellers to sell items without physical contact with the buyer.

Note: If you are at [high risk for COVID-19](#), be sure to take extra precautions. You should consider using online payments or outdoor pickup without any close contact.

How can I keep myself and the buyer safe?

- Clean and disinfect your items before giving or shipping it to a buyer.
- Buyers should wash all clothing and disinfect other items after pick up.
- The buyer should state item descriptions and terms of the sale before posting.
- Make or accept payments or over the phone and avoid exchanging cash.
- Use precautions to protect your health and safety if you need to pick up or pay in-person.
 - Wear a cloth face covering.
 - [Practice good hygiene.](#)
 - Pick up and pay in open, visible, and well-ventilated space. Do not enter another person's home.
 - Stay at least 6 feet apart. Make sure you pick up and pay without physical contact.

"The Healthiest County to Live, Learn, Work, and Play"



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- Place a new envelope for each buyer on a table. The seller can watch the buyer leave their money in the envelope, making sure to stay at least 6 feet away. Sellers should wait at least 24 hours to open the envelope to reduce the chance of infection.
- Schedule item pick-up with enough time between buyers so they don't come in contact with each other.
- Wash your hands after every transaction. Only use hand sanitizer if there is no dirt on your hands.

Be sure to postpone or cancel any sales if you feel unsafe or if you cannot follow our recommendations. Make sure another person can observe interactions from a safe distance.

If, despite the above guidance, you choose to move forward with a thrift or rummage sale, CCDPH asks you to highly consider making the following changes, based in public health science and infection control:

- Set up tables with plenty of space, so people can keep 6 feet from one another
- Mark ground for one way traffic, up and down the aisles of your sale
- Mark 6 feet distance in places where people line up, like a checkout area
- Consider non-contact payment methods (Venmo, Paypal, or Cash App)
- Clean high-touch surfaces often
- Wash your hands often
- Provide hand sanitizer
- Avoid serving food or drinks
- Have a sale only if you are healthy
- Wear a cloth face covering
- Post signage reminding sick shoppers that they should go home

As the community continues to reopen and individuals are interacting more, we ask that you follow these guidelines to keep yourself and others safe:

- Stay within your usual neighborhoods, meaning where you live, work, exercise, shop, go to school, worship, and play.
- Maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from others who you do not live with and wear a cloth face covering out in public if you are able.
- Assume you will come in contact with the virus any time you leave home and stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your sleeve or elbow or a tissue, not your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, especially while in public.
- Clean high-touch surfaces regularly.
- Avoid gathering in groups of 10 or more.

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