



City of Kewaunee
401 Fifth Street
Kewaunee, WI 54216
T: 920-388-5000
F: 920-388-5025

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mayor Jason Jelinek

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COVID-19 Update

As of yesterday, the Wisconsin Supreme Court released its decision for the lawsuit between the Wisconsin Legislature and Andrea Palm that challenged the Safer at Home order issued by Andrea Palm, the acting Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). That order was deemed unlawful and was stricken down effective immediately. What does that mean for businesses in Wisconsin and more to the point Kewaunee? The state is able to reopen and do business, engage in travel, and proceed as usual effective immediately (Except the portion closing the schools for this year was retained).

While that is the decision at a state level some counties and mayors have taken further action to continue a “stay order” at those respective levels. Currently Kewaunee County is still under an emergency order but it does not have an effect over private business. It does however give county departments the ability to stay closed to the public. As mayor there is also the ability to keep public departments closed. This is the model that will continue in the city of Kewaunee. We will keep City facilities closed to the public and only allow access to people by appointment. Those people with appointments will be required to wear a mask and sanitize their hands upon entering any City facility. This policy will include City Hall, the Police department, Public Works, Fire Hall, Ambulance Department, and the Public Library. The effort behind the policy is to protect city employees and still keep the services our citizens have come to expect available. Using the internet, sending by mail or using the drop off box located at the front of City Hall to pay your water bill as an example. The idea is to minimize person to person contact to keep the city staff healthy so your services are not interrupted in any way. Public areas such as playgrounds and restrooms and the Tug Ludington will remain closed as the logistics of keeping those high touch areas sanitized could be insurmountable for the city employees.

What does this mean to local business? Unfortunately, once the court decision was made to open it gave little time for our Legislature and Governor’s office to implement a reopening plan and release it to the public. The Opening Up America Again and Badger Bounce Back programs were slowly showing success and had good guidelines for a recovery. One thing the court decision did not do was make the Covid-19 virus go away! There is still risk of infections and the health effects it has people who might contract it.

I would like to commend our local business community on steps they have taken to follow the Stay at Home order when it was in place and their concern for how to move forward. I had several phone calls from business owners looking for guidance from the city on whether they

should/can open rather than taking it upon themselves to do so without regard as can be seen on social media and television in other communities. I believe that this business community has many responsible business men and women and they will do their best to keep their patrons and employees safe. We suggest businesses to share their practices with each other and work together and support one another to have safe operations to keep new case numbers down and work towards getting back to some kind of normal life by the lakeshore we all love so much. We do not want to see a repeat of the past few months come back again.

The City strongly recommends that good health practices such as wearing a mask when appropriate, washing hands regularly, social distancing and most of all staying home when showing any signs of illness continue to be followed by businesses and citizens that wish to patron them. And again, when considering your personal interactions with family and friends. Door County Medical Center and Public Health have put together a Partnership For Infection Prevention that asks businesses and customers to commit to guidelines for prevention and lays out those guidelines very clearly. That information can be found at this link <https://doorcounty.net/partnership-for-infection-prevention/>

Lastly, be aware of how our actions can affect one another. Be nice, it's easy and you just might make someone who is struggling with the stress of the situation feel more comfortable. Public mental health has been a huge part of the epidemic and will continue to be.

This situation is still fluid and could change on a day to day basis. We at the city will do our best to keep you informed and offer support and guidance at all times.

Be safe Kewaunee!

Jason Jelinek – Mayor for the City of Kewaunee

If you have any questions, you can contact Mayor Jelinek, at 920-388-5000 or e-mail jjelinek@cityofkewaunee.org or e-mail admin@cityofkewaunee.org for any questions/concerns.