

Business Questions Regarding COVID-19

There are many scenarios our essential businesses are facing daily as it relates to human health concerns, and questions are coming in from employees. Working with the Public Health Offices serving Dodge and Jefferson counties and the City of Watertown, we've compiled a few Questions and Answers your business may find helpful. A list of resources and contacts for specific questions is at the end of the document.

What do I do if...

Q: my employee informs me that he/she is living with someone who has been told that they have worked with someone who has tested positive for C-19?

A: At this time, public health officials are not following up on "contacts of contacts." However, it may be important for the business to alert public health so they may better understand the exposure of the employee's family member. If the family member of the employee is a high/medium risk, and shows symptoms, recent guidelines would place the employee as a 'probable case,' and the employee would be quarantined.

Q: I call public health with a question? Will they close my business?

A: Generally speaking, the only time a business would be guided to close would be in the case of a confirmed COVID-19 case of an employee. The health department would need to be involved in tracing and would provide specific guidance to the business on what steps need to be taken. **Public health never arbitrarily closes businesses.** Closure may be warranted for businesses deemed non-essential and therefore should be closed under the Governor's order, or if there is a positive case AND public health deems closing as necessary for public safety reasons.

Q: my employee tells me they've tested positive for COVID-19?

A: Contact public health. They will walk you through what to do. Each instance is unique. For instance, the employee may have little to no contact with the public. In that case, public health may use a detailed contact tracing process to identify close contacts and those most likely at risk. And they will provide your business with resources, cleaning guidelines, make follow up calls, etc. to help you navigate these waters. If it is deemed necessary to close the business, public health will assist with close down for cleaning and advise if some or all other employees may need to go into quarantine.

Additional Questions

Q: How does public health tracing/tracking work?

A: Public health is using CDC and DHS guidelines. These are changing and evolving so contacting your public health official may be your best bet.



Q: Who do I contact with questions?

For businesses in the City of Watertown:

Watertown Public Health Department at 920-262-8090

Carol Quest, Health Officer/Director - cquest@ci.watertown.wi.us

City of Watertown COVID-19 hotline: 1-888-503-3791 (This phone line is a recording of frequently asked questions and should not be used for emergencies)

For businesses elsewhere in Jefferson County:

Jefferson County Public Health at 920-674-7275 or covid19@jeffersoncountyiwi.gov

Elizabeth Chilsen, Public Health Program Manager - ElizabethC@jeffersoncountyiwi.gov

For businesses in Dodge County:

Dodge County Public Health at 920-386-3670

COVID-19 hotline at 920-386-4304 (M-F 8:30a-4p, Sat 9a-4p, Sun 9a-2p)

Abby Sauer, RN BSN, Dodge County Public Health Officer - asauer@co.dodge.wi.us

For WI Department of Health Services COVID-19 updates: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/employers

For Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updates: www.cdc.gov

For Business Resources and COVID-19 news: <https://www.thriveed.org/covid-19-business-resources/>

If you are unsure if your business is essential under Emergency Order #12, or it is not listed in the Order and you believe it is essential, you may request to be designated as essential by submitting a request to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation via the following link: <https://wedc.org/essentialbusiness/>

NOTE: We compiled this informational piece with public health staff from Dodge and Jefferson counties and believe the information to be current and accurate. This is an evolving situation, and we encourage you to contact your public health officials if you have specific questions.

