



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 1, 2021**

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### **DOOR COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ADVISORY REGARDING FACE COVERINGS**

Throughout this pandemic, Door County Public Health, along with other local health departments, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the Centers for Disease Control, has remained consistent in recommendations to wear face coverings. Science shows that wearing a mask helps prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus, and that the more people that wear them, the more effective they are in stopping the spread. We provided an advisory July 24, 2020 and are reaffirming that today.

In the last two weeks, our county has seen three times the total of COVID-19 cases than the first two weeks of the month. COVID disease activity remains at a high level in Door County. Additionally, we have been informed that a Door County case was positive for Variant B.1.351. This is one of the three types of COVID variants which have been identified in Wisconsin, and was first discovered in South Africa in October 2020. Researchers have found this strain spreads more rapidly and easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus. More information on variants here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/county.htm>

While Door County is making steady progress on vaccine rollout, now more than ever we all need to continue efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Effective today Thursday, April 1st, 2021 Door County Public Health is issuing an Emergency Advisory which stipulates that everyone 5 years and older should wear a face covering or mask when in public. We are advising all of the following;

- 1. People should properly wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth at all times when in any public spaces**, which includes businesses of any kind (retail, grocery, restaurants, bars, gas stations, etc.) and health care settings. Choose masks that have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric; completely cover your nose and mouth; and fit snugly against the sides of your face.

2. **Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet between yourself and other people who are not members of your household unit.**
3. **Avoid in-person events and gatherings, as they are still considered high risk.** The larger the gathering, the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the risk of becoming infected and spreading COVID-19. Highest risk are gatherings where it is difficult to remain spaced 6 feet apart, and attendees travel from outside the local area.
4. **Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer.**
5. **Stay home if you are sick, even with mild symptoms. If you have symptoms, get tested.**
6. **Get vaccinated as soon as you are eligible.** Make sure to complete the vaccine series to be fully vaccinated.

Some people may be exempted if they have physical, mental, or developmental conditions that prevent them from wearing a face covering. If someone is unable to wear a mask or face covering in a business due to a condition or disability, people should ask that business for reasonable accommodation, like a curbside pickup or delivery option. If your child is not able to wear a mask, only bring them to places where it is necessary, so that your child does not get or spread COVID-19 to others.

This advisory should not be used as justification to harass or harm another person who is either wearing or not wearing a face covering.

We ask that all residents and visitors to do their part in supporting our efforts against this pandemic, which includes continuing to wear masks in public, even if you have received the vaccine. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our community safe.

This advisory will remain in effect until further notice.

Dated this 1 day of April 2021.



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Susan Powers, RN, BSN, Door County Health Officer