



Vilas County Public Health Department

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ANNOUNCEMENT RE: LARGE GATHERINGS

Over the past several months we have received numerous phone calls and emails asking for our advice as to whether event organizers should go forward with their public gatherings, such as parades, festivals, flea markets and other type events, that are typically held throughout the Summer and early Fall in Vilas County.

Public health experts agree that large gatherings of people in sustained, close contact greatly increases the risk for spread of the COVID-19 virus among those who attend the events, and to the communities these individuals return to after the event. The communal nature of such events makes it especially challenging to accommodate the physical distancing and sanitation recommendations required to slow the spread of disease. This includes but is not limited to fairs, festivals, parades, and conferences. (WI DHS)

The Vilas County Health Department is the statutory resource for all Vilas County residents and visitors. Currently, there are no State or local orders that prohibit large public gatherings. **However, Vilas County Public Health Department recognizes that large gatherings are not advisable due to the COVID -19 pandemic.** We have confidence that Event organizers will act in the best interest of the community and potential Event attendees. Since we are in an unprecedented time, postponing an Event to 2021 would be viewed as a reasonable and appropriate decision.

If a large public gathering is under consideration by your group or entity, please review and consider the Community Large Events guidance available here

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/event-planners-and-attendees-faq.html>

Sincerely,

Laurel Dreger RN BSN RS JD
Health Officer
Vilas County Health Department