

COVID-19 Facts: Understanding "Safer at Home"



What "Safer at Home" means for you

Everyone in Wisconsin is ordered to stay at home or at their place of residence, with limited exceptions. This means when you're using shared or outdoor spaces other than your home or residence, you must keep a physical distance of six feet from other people who aren't part of your household. This is called physical distancing.

You can leave your home or residence for a few essential activities and functions (while keeping a physical distance from others). Here are some examples:

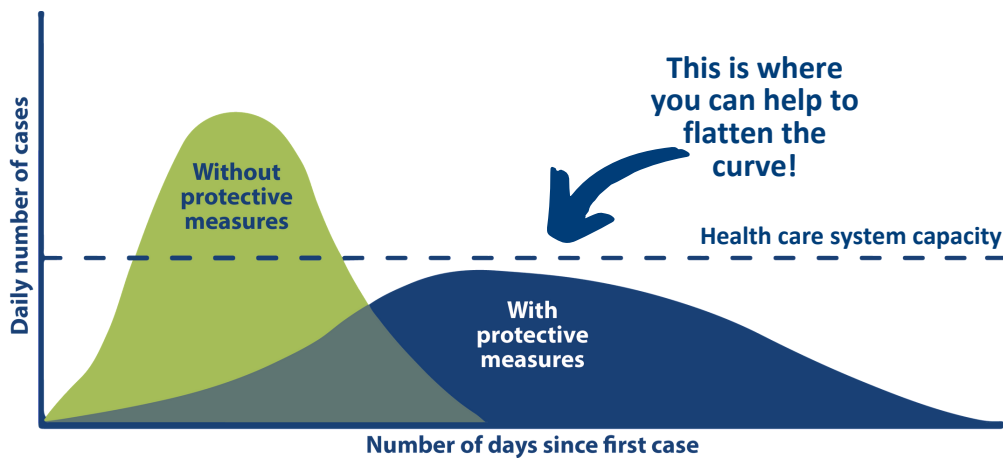
- Picking up medications.
- Visiting your health care provider.
- Obtaining groceries and food.
- Buying gas or pet food.
- Getting fresh air and enjoying outdoor activities like walking, biking, hiking, or running (does not include team or contact sports).
- Taking care of others, including friends and pets.

See [Safer at Home FAQs](#) for more information.

How Safer at Home and physical distancing help you and others stay healthy

Protective measures like Safer at Home and physical distancing are our best tools to "flatten the curve," in other words, decrease the daily number of cases of a contagious disease. Physical distancing is effective in slowing the rate of infection. During an outbreak like COVID-19, a large number of ill people at once can quickly overwhelm local hospitals and clinics.

See [Emergency Order #12](#) for additional information.



What are nonessential and essential business?

Essential businesses are those allowed to stay open. You can read how the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation defines essential businesses at <https://wedc.org/essentialbusiness>. Some limitations will be in place such as, restaurants may only provide takeout food. All essential businesses must meet physical distancing requirements to the extent possible.

