

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING AN EXTENDED STATE OF EMERGENCY
CITY OF PORTAGE – COVID-19 RESPONSE**

WHEREAS, On March 12, 2020 Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers declared a public health emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the City of Portage (City) adopted Resolution No. 20-10 declaring an emergency and granting the Mayor and City Administrator joint administrative powers to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2020, pursuant to Federal Disaster Declaration DR-4520, all 72 Counties in Wisconsin were declared a disaster area for COVID-19, qualifying all municipalities as eligible for FEMA Public Assistance Program funding for COVID-19 related response expenses incurred as of January 20, 2020, until the incident period is terminated by the US Dept of Health and Human Services, and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2020, the City adopted Resolution No. 20-12 temporarily authorizing alternate meeting methods during the duration of the State of Emergency.

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20-10 was of indeterminate length, and was to remain in effect until the State's public health emergency declaration was lifted, and

WHEREAS, On May 13, 2020 the Supreme Court for the State of Wisconsin issued a decision effectively terminating Emergency Order No. 28, the extended "Safer At Home" declaration, leaving the responsibility to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic up to local governments, and

WHEREAS, as of May 20, 2020, the State has registered almost 13,000 cases of COVID-19 with 467 deaths, however as a result of the restrictions and conditions put in place by the Safer At Home order since March 24, 2020, and the Badger Bounce Back Plan since April 20, 2020, the state had observed success in limiting the spread of COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, the City has utilized guidance and direction from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State Department of Health Services (DHS), and Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to establish restrictions on access to public facilities, and

WHEREAS, the State and Columbia County have not mandated any restrictions or re-opening plans for businesses, organizations and the City to consider in response to the ongoing COVID-19 disaster.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, pursuant to Chap. 323.11 and 323.14(4)(b), Wis. Stats., the City of Portage extends the declaration of a local State of Emergency through June 30, 2020, unless otherwise extended or rescinded by the Common Council.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED that:

1. The provisions and requirements of Resolution No. 20-012 Temporarily Authorizing Alternate Public Meeting Methods shall remain in effect for the duration of this State of Emergency.
2. The Mayor and City Administrator shall coordinate the development and implementation of restoring public access to City facilities pursuant to the phased approach recommended by the CDC, DHS and WEDC, based on the implementation of cost-effective accommodations that allow access yet maintain the safety of the public and employees.
3. All City Departments shall continue to track expenses related to efforts to protect the public and prevent the spread of COVID-19.
4. The Chief of Police, in consultation with the affected Department Director, is authorized to temporarily suspend access or use of any City facility that is experiencing significant overcrowding or overuse to the extent that the recommended safety precautions of the CDC, DHS and WEDC (including social distancing, limited congregation of persons, etc.) are not being followed, or the facility is in need of cleaning, repairs or other modifications to ensure safe public use.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED that all businesses and organizations in the City of Portage are strongly recommended to implement the recommendations as provided in the CDC's "Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools and Homes".

Issued this 21st day of May, 2020.

CITY OF PORTAGE



Rick Dodd, Mayor

Ratified by Common Council:

Links to CDC, DHS and WEDC guidance:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

DHS: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/prepare.htm>

WEDC: <https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-General-Guidelines.pdf>