



# MUSKEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

W182 S8200 Racine Ave., Muskego, WI 53150 | (262) 679-4130 | (262) 679-4113 Fax

Chief of Police  
Richard Rens

## PRESS RELEASE

March 31, 2020

**\*\*\* For Immediate Release \*\*\***

Dear Neighbors,

It has been a week since Governor Evers issued his Safer at Home Order. This is new and uncharted territory for all of us, including your police department. While the Governor issued the Safer at Home Order, it falls on local law enforcement to enforce it. Over the last few days there has been some confusion regarding what some businesses can and cannot do. We are hoping to provide some clarity to these situations so that those businesses who can still operate do so safely and legally.

This is Lenten Season, and we love our Fish Fry. This past Friday we received a number of calls regarding restaurants and bars that sell carry out meals violating certain aspects of the Safer at Home Order by allowing patrons to congregate inside the establishment while waiting for their carry out orders. There were also reports of patrons consuming take out alcoholic beverages outside the businesses while waiting for their carry out orders. Both of these activities are a violation of the Safer at Home Order. The order reads, in part:

- ***Food and drink may not be consumed on premises, either indoors or outdoors.***
- ***Establishments shall meet Social Distancing Requirements between all individuals on the premises to the extent possible.*** This means no more than 10 persons at a time inside the business, while maintaining 6 feet between patrons.
- ***Customers may enter the above establishments only for the purpose of ordering, pick up, and paying for food or beverage or both.***
- ***No seating may be provided.***
- ***Customers are prohibited from self-dispensing any unpackaged food or beverage.***

Additionally, allowing patrons to consume alcoholic beverages outside the business, in many cases, is a violation of the establishment's liquor license.

We have also received calls from businesses who want to stream classes or entertainment online from their facilities as a way to continue to serve their customers. As much as we would like to help our neighbors, after consulting with the Waukesha County Emergency Operations Center and the Waukesha County District Attorney's Office, we have confirmed that these activities are also not permitted under the Safer at Home Order. With regard to businesses deemed non-essential, the order reads, in part:

***... to provide protection, enforcement of laws and service for the citizens of the City of Muskego***

[www.cityofmuskego.org](http://www.cityofmuskego.org)

*Minimum Basic Operations include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:*

- *The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, preserve the condition of the business's physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions, including where these functions are outsourced to other entities.*
- *The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.*

This means that businesses may do what is necessary to keep the lights on, short of continuing operations on site.

If your business is not considered essential and you think it should be, contact the WEDC and apply for essential status.

Believe us when we say we do not want to be the “bad guys”. This is our city too, and we do not want to see any business suffer, but it is imperative that we all do our part and follow the Safer at Home Order. This is what we have to do to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic, and while our goal is to gain voluntary compliance from all members of the community, we will not hesitate to enforce the law if necessary. Please don't make it come to that.

No matter what, your police department and our staff will continue to be right here, on the front lines, doing everything we can to keep everyone safe. Together, we will get through this.