



**PIONEERING PAST COVID-19:  
A guide to recovery**

**Platteville Common Council  
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**City of Platteville, Wisconsin  
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## Summary

Implementation of the City of Platteville “Pioneering Past COVID-19: A guide to recovery” will follow guidance and direction from the State of Wisconsin and Grant County public health officials throughout its response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic. The state’s Badger Bounce Back plan and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation reopening guidelines serves as a framework for this guide.

During the response and recovery to COVID-19, the City will remain focused on five core functions:

- Delivering quality public safety services
- Supporting the local economy and business community
- Connecting the community to resources
- Maintaining infrastructure and providing safe utilities
- Ensuring organizational resilience

The services provided to the community, through staff efforts and allocation of resources, will be guided by these principles:

- Being adaptable in the face of change and uncertainty
- Capitalizing on opportunities for improvement
- Removing barriers
- Applying lessons learned in response
- Aligning, collaborating, and innovating with partners

The City of Platteville is continuing to work with the State of Wisconsin and Grant County Public Health officials on following a plan which will allow the City to progress in a fashion like the Badger Bounce Back Plan. The City’s plan may pause within a phase or criteria or revert to a more restrictive guideline or policy if there is a public health necessity.

It is likely COVID-19 related response and recovery operations will need to be sustained for 6-12 months or longer. City staff will remain focused on core strategic initiatives and community needs while remaining flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances.

## Introduction

The National Response Framework, part of the National Strategy for Homeland Security, operates on the premise large-scale emergencies and response programs are federally supported, state managed, and locally executed. The state manages emergency responses through regulatory mandates, emergency orders, legislative activities, and advisory services. State efforts and programs are often administered through the counties, including, in the case of COVID-19, with county public health officials. The City of Platteville does not maintain its own public health official; therefore, the City is required by state statute to follow the orders, guidelines and recommendations made by the Grant County Health Department.

City officials work together to maintain the peace, safety, welfare, and health of both residents and visitors. When it comes to administering, managing, and delivering programs to serve the needs of the community, the City takes the lead.

This plan serves as a set of guidelines to aid staff and local officials in executing the City's COVID-19 response and recovery. This plan is subject to change based on local or statewide circumstances, local health official recommendations, or COVID-19 developments.

This plan does not supersede statewide plans, regulations, policies, or statutes. However, it was developed to serve the best interests of the City of Platteville, with the greatest good in mind. What may be best for Milwaukee or Madison may not be best for the City of Platteville. It is likely the situation(s) and related policies and actions occurring just across the borders in Iowa, and Illinois will impact Platteville just as much as what may be occurring elsewhere in Wisconsin.

## **Background**

The City of Platteville initiated preparedness and response efforts related to COVID-19 on March 17, 2020. A public health emergency was declared for the State of Wisconsin on March 12, 2020 and a local emergency was ratified by the City Council for the City of Platteville on March 24, 2020 and was extended on April 23, 2020. The Wisconsin Safer at Home order was put in place by Governor Tony Evers on March 25, 2020 and was in place until it was overturned by the Wisconsin Supreme Court on May 13, 2020.

The City of Platteville is empowered to order, by ordinance or resolution, whatever is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection, and welfare of persons and property within the City during the emergency. These orders can be issued by the Common Council or the City Manager via proclamation when it is not feasible for the entire governing body to meet. Such orders cannot conflict with state or county authority. To date, such orders by the City have authorized the following:

- Closing City buildings and facilities to regular public access
- Closing park facilities, team sport courts, and playgrounds
- Meeting via zoom for regular committee and advisory board meetings
- Meeting via zoom for City Council meetings
- Suspending utility disconnects and late fees
- Suspending recreational programming

In addition to these orders, the City of Platteville swiftly implemented an aggressive social distancing plan within City buildings, and an agile remote working alternative work site/scheduling strategy for City staff. Municipal operations were curtailed to ensure compliance with the "safer at home" expectations and an interim citywide organizational strategy was implemented, which realigned City programs and efforts into five core functional areas found on page 2.

## **Badger Bounce Back Plan**

On April 20, 2020, Governor Tony Evers revealed his Badger Bounce Back plan, outlining the steps and measures necessary to re-open Wisconsin. Key components of this plan include the following:

- The dial to open business and society is turned in phases.

- Decisions to move from phase to phase are guided by data.
- To turn the dial on Safer at Home and proceed with the Badger Bounce Back plan, the following are needed:
  - Increased lab capacity and testing
  - Increased contact tracing, including support for isolation and quarantine
  - Tracking the spread of COVID-19
  - Increased health care capacity
  - Procurement of ample supplies of personal protective equipment
- Individuals and businesses agree to practice good hygiene, physical distancing, and other best practices.

The Badger Bounce Back plan includes four phases. The first is the current Safer at Home phase, followed by recovery phases 1-3.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services continues to provide details and/or specific metrics needed to move from the Safer at Home stage to Phase 1 of the plan. The general dialing criteria they recommend using includes the following:

- Downward trend of people reporting flu-like illnesses and COVID-like cases over a 14-day period
- Healthcare system reports capabilities and capacities needed to care for all those in need, including adequate personal protective equipment for healthcare and public safety workers
- COVID-19 testing is available to any Wisconsin resident who has COVID-19 symptoms
- Capabilities to conduct full contact tracing for a positive test result within 48 hours

Table 1 provides an overview of the three phases of the Badger plan<sup>5</sup>:

Action	Safer at Home	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Wash hands often	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cover coughs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Don't go out if ill	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Face mask if ill person goes out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Surface and object cleaning	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Isolation of positive cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quarantine of contacts of positive cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6' physical distancing	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
No visits to nursing homes, congregate facilities, and hospitals	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (until a vaccine is available)
Allow gatherings	No, but allow religious gatherings <10	Yes – 10 people maximum	Yes – 50 people maximum	Yes – no maximum
Open restaurants	No, but allow takeout and delivery	Yes, w/ best practices*	Yes	Yes
Open bars	No, but allow takeout and delivery	No, but allow takeout and delivery	Yes, w/ best-practices*	Yes
Open essential businesses	Yes	Yes, with retail restrictions removed	Yes	Yes
Open non-essential businesses	Minimum basic operations only	Partial reopening*	Yes, with best practices*	Yes
Open post-secondary education	No	No	Consider reopening	Yes
Open K-12 schools	No	Yes*	Yes*	Yes
Open daycares	Yes, but limits on capacity	Yes*	Yes*	Yes
Voluntary quarantine of travelers from high-prevalence areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 1

\*People over age 60, including employees and those who are medically vulnerable, should continue to shelter-in-place. Online education/remote work encouraged wherever possible.

## **Local Execution**

The Badger Bounce Back plan is a statewide plan without an apparent regional focus. As allowed by law, the City of Platteville will consider regional and local circumstances and conditions when implementing its plan.

The City intends to be supportive of the requirements and recommendations of the Badger Bounce Back and county plans. The City does not intend to supersede any components of the state or county plans related to the opening or operations of businesses. However, the City may implement additional measures or restrictions due to local impact(s) as the City deems necessary. The City may also help provide definition to some areas left unclear by state orders or where local enforcement is involved.

The City of Platteville does not maintain its own public health official; therefore, the City is required by state statute to follow the orders, guidelines and recommendations made by the Grant County Health Department. The Grant County Health Department may develop concurrent plans for COVID-19, which will become a supplement to this plan and referred to as needed. The county's plans, if developed, will be applied concurrently to the City's plan as applicable.

The Grant County Health Department on Monday, May 26, 2020 has created a Grant County specific-interim COVID-19 Dashboard. The City of Platteville will be utilizing the information presented in this dashboard along with the information presented in the Badger Bounce Back Plan when weighing decisions regarding items such as reopening of municipal buildings and events.

The City Manager has also convened regular meetings with City emergency management staff regarding COVID-19 and regularly attends Grant County and League of Wisconsin Municipalities COVID-19 meetings.

The City intends to transition from phase to phase of the Badger Bounce Back Plan, Grant County Health Departments COVID-19 Interim Dashboard and WEDC guidelines. It is possible at the direction of the Common Council that the City may stay in a current phase as the state moves forward, or may even return to a previous phase, if public health is compromised.

Municipal Facilities

	Safer at Home	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
City Hall	Closed	Open w social distancing controls	Open w social distancing controls	Open
Park Bathroom Facilities	Closed	Open, use at own risk; more frequent cleaning		No restrictions
City Parks	Open w social distancing controls	Open w social distancing controls	Open w social distancing controls	No restrictions
City Playgrounds/Sporting Courts	Closed	Open < 10 use at own risk	Open < 50, use at own risk	No restrictions
Dog Park	Open w social distancing controls	Open w social distancing controls	Open w social distancing controls	No restrictions
City Campground	Closed	Self-contained camping only	Open w social distancing controls	No restrictions
City Swimming Pool	Closed	TBD	TBD	Open
Park Open Shelters	Use at own risk for families/households; must be < 10	Use at own risk for families/households; must be < 10	Parties < 50	Open
Broske Center	Use at own risk for families/households; must be < 10	Use at own risk for families/households; must be < 10	Parties < 50	Open
Library General	Closed, curbside contactless pickup and returns only	TBD	TBD	Open
Library Meeting Rooms	Closed	TBD	TBD	Open

Municipal Facilities Specific Phase 1 Reopening Considerations

**Museum:**

**Introduction**

Since 1964, hundreds of thousands of adults and children have experienced the pioneer heritage of southwestern Wisconsin at The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums. Each year, new generations of visitors discover our Museums and participate in lifelong learning opportunities in natural history, cultural history, and science and industry.

The effects of COVID-19 delayed the Museums’ May 2020 opening. As we consider preparations to re-open our three-acre museum campus to the public, we will need to adjust the way we operate in order to provide a healthy and safe environment for staff and visitors alike. These guidelines are based on the Badger Bounce Back Plan, WEDC Reopening Guidelines and any recommendations we receive from Grant County.

An opening date for the Museums, which is a department of the City of Platteville, will be determined by City officials and the Museum Board as well as our capacity to provide a safe work environment for staff using guidelines to limit and mitigate the effects of COVID-19. This Spring and Summer 2020 COVID-19 Reopening Plan outlines a phased timeline to reopen to the public in a safe and responsible manner

while taking progressive steps to restore regular operations and providing flexibility for revision of the plan based on current circumstances.

### **PHASE 1**

- Opening date: TBD (based on City reopening of municipal buildings)
- Self-guided Museum Admission: By advance reservation/prepayment (3-hour time slots) with the protocols below
- Train Rides: Resume with restrictions below
- Mine Tours: None due to limited ventilation and challenges of social distancing
- Prices: \$10 Ages 13+/\$8.50 Seniors/\$5 Children 5-12/Free Ages 4 and Under. Family rate \$37
- Public Hours of Operation: TBD
- Programs: Assume no in-person programs, including festivals and mass gatherings, for the foreseeable future; but an increase in virtual programming opportunities

#### **Entry Area**

- Groups will be scheduled to maintain separation
- One staff member, wearing a mask, at a time in the Museum Store to welcome guests
- Limited number of guests, max capacity of 10, no groups larger than 5
- All guests must wash their hands upon entering the building, either in our washrooms or with hand sanitizer provided on welcome table.
- Guests must wear masks, provided on welcome table
- We request that guests maintain social distancing
- Acrylic or plexiglass sneeze guard will be provided at Point of Sale
- Hand sanitizer available to staff and public
- Guests are asked not to touch/handle Museum Store items they will not purchase
- Position credit card reader so visitor can dip own card if possible
- Cleaning the entire entry foyer and Museum Store floor every day as part of our closing process

#### **Display Areas**

- Disinfect each interactive button and hands-on display after each party
- Request that all guests not touch displays
- Maximum two parties in the display areas with separation (one in first floor large room, one in upstairs area)
- Make modifications to hands-on displays (e.g. WWI soldier care package or child's desk)
  - Clean display cases every day as part of our closing process

#### **Train**

- Maximum one party of five
- Seating in rear car only
- Staff sanitizes car after each use
- Masks required

#### **Outdoors**

- Maintain social distance while enjoying grounds

#### **Restrooms**

- Maximum of two persons per restroom or family



- Install occupancy sensors for lights (Shannon)
- Cleaned after each use – Minimum: seats, locks, paper dispenser, grab bars, sink

**Office and Work Areas**

- Maintain 6-foot separation
- Install sneeze guard between desks of Museum Specialist-Communications and Museum Specialist-Operations
- 1 or 2 people per workspace/breakroom

**PHASE 2**

- Self-guided Museum Admission: Continue limiting the number of guests, maximum capacity of 50, no groups larger than 15
- Train Rides: Continue
- Mine Tours: None due to limited ventilation and challenges of social distancing
- Some in-person programs with restricted registration may be offered

**PHASE 3**

- No state regulatory restrictions, but certain best practices may continue to promote health and safety
- Mine Tours: Resume, potentially with some restrictions
- Train Rides: Resume, potentially with some restrictions
- Programs: Resume, potentially with some restrictions

**Library:**

The Platteville Public Library Board of Trustees will adopt a phased reopening plan in accordance with guidance received from the Department of Public Instruction and in alignment with City procedures. Phase 1 will allow public access to computers by appointment only, as well as curbside pickup services.

**Police Dept:**

Entry Area:

- Continue to lock the entrance and buzz people in.
- Glass partitions to separate staff from public as designed

Dispatch Area:

- Keep public out
- Up to 3 in this area
- Construct partition/sneeze guard between stations

Training Room:

- Up to 15 in room, maintain 6 feet apart.

Chief's Conference Room:

- Up to 4 in room

Police Office Areas:

- Offices (Chief, LTs, Admin): Max 2 per office with 6-foot distance or sneeze guards
- In open office area – 1 per cubical. If closer than 6 feet, consider separation or sneeze guards
- In squad room, up to 12 at a time, 6 feet apart.
- Sergeant's office – up to 3 at a time
- Interview rooms – max 2 per room
- Break room – max 4.

City Hall:

Swing Space:

- Lobby: 2 customers
- East Conference Room: 4

Restrooms: 2 individuals each

First Floor Lobby: 8 – 10 individuals

Finance:

Office: Max 2 individuals

Outer area: 3 employees, plus 2 customers, max

Council Chambers: 35 Max

Break area: 3 Max

City Manager office: 3 Max

Other offices: 2 Max

Small Conf: 2 Max

Large Conf: 4 Max

Reception area: 2 employees + 4 customers max

**City Sanitation of Buildings:**

The City of Platteville upon reopening of municipal buildings will adopt a rigorous sanitation plan which will include the following:

- Sanitizing common use spaces, doors, handles, etc. regularly throughout the course of the workday.
- Review scheduling of meeting/public spaces to ensure time between meetings to properly sanitize area.
- Review with Grant County & Southwest Hospital best practices to sanitize spaces, equipment, personal protective equipment which will assist in staff minimizing the changes of contracting COVID-19.

**Municipal Operations**

	Safer at Home	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Social Distancing	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Respiratory etiquette	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Staying home when sick	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reassigning staff or restricting onsite work due to personal travel	Potentially dependent on location and details	Potentially dependent on location and details	Potentially dependent on location and details	No restrictions likely
Alternative/remote worksites for staff	Required unless exception approved	Required unless exception approved	Preferred	Permitted
Worksites considerations	Separate rooms as much distance as possible, walls/barriers	Separate rooms as much distance as possible, walls/barriers	At Least 6' with walls/barriers	TBD
Work-related travel restrictions	City limits or utility service territory	State of Wisconsin Travel	State of Wisconsin Travel	No restrictions
Meetings/gatherings	less than 10, virtual encouraged	less than 10, virtual encouraged	Less than 50; Virtual encouraged	No restrictions
Auditorium	Suspended	33% capacity and social distancing	50% capacity and social distancing	No restrictions
City Council	Two per month, zoom	Two per month, zoom	Two per month, zoom or w social distancing	No restrictions
Boards/committees	Meeting via zoom only	Meeting via zoom only	meet via zoom or social distancing	No restrictions
Public engagements by City Staff	None	Social distancing w <10	May resume as long as <50 and maintain social distancing as able	No restrictions
Non-emergency meter changeouts	Suspended	with approval	Yes, with approval for water	No restrictions
Recreational programming	Suspended	< 10 and social distancing	Possible for smaller programs w/social distancing	No restrictions
Aquatics	Suspended	< 10 and social distancing	Less than 50	No restrictions
Group sports/sports leagues/fields	Suspended	< 10 and social distancing	With capacity limits and modifications	No restrictions
Large item cleanup, drop-off event	Postponed	with modifications	With modifications	No restrictions
Compost Site	Open, Social Distancing	Open, Social distancing	No restrictions	No restrictions

In addition, and unless otherwise indicated, the following actions or considerations should be noted regarding events in public spaces within the City.

Events	Safer at Home	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Festivals/parades	Will not be authorized	With capacity limits and modifications	With capacity limits and modifications	No restrictions
Sporting events/runs	Will not be authorized	With capacity limits and modifications	With capacity limits and modifications	TBD
Spectator activities	Will not be authorized	With capacity limits and modifications	With capacity limits and modifications	No restrictions

Communication

The City’s Communication Department will provide COVID-19 related official information and resources. This will primarily be accomplished via the City’s website and Facebook pages.

Official information sources cited will include Grant County Public Health Department; Wisconsin Department of Health Services; Center for Disease Control and Prevention; and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Other sources may be utilized with the approval of the City Manager or his designee.

Enforcement Philosophy

Community or staff concerns about compliance of COVID-19 related emergency orders or guidelines would rarely, if ever, be of an emergent nature. These non-emergency type questions, concerns, or complaints should be directed to the County’s public health office or the City of Platteville Police Department non-emergency telephone line.

The Police Department is committed to working in partnership with the community to find solutions to community problems through their proactive outreach, community education, and neighborhood advocacy efforts. In terms of COVID-19, the preference is to gain voluntary compliance, through collaboration and education, prior to enforcement.

Violations of emergency orders that are either too egregious, or are unable to be resolved via voluntary compliance, may result in enforcement actions. The Police Department has discretionary authority under the leadership of the police chief to pursue formal enforcement through the county district attorney’s office. Public health officials also have enforcement authority granted to them.

Business Community Considerations

The City is proud to partner with its thriving business community and remain unwavering in its support during these difficult times. Initiatives that have been implemented to support the business community include:

- Collaboration with the Platteville Regional Chamber of Commerce and Platteville Economic Development Partners to assess the local economy and assist the business community with the transition through phases.
- Approval of local business grant program for small businesses.

- Proactive outreach to business and residents upon changes and recommendations from Grant County or the State of Wisconsin.

In anticipation of eventual recovery, businesses, as well as non-profits and the faith-based community, should prepare to implement new business practices and social distancing measures in consultation with public health officials. Grant County Public Health has made recommendations to follow the guidelines established by the Badger Bounce Back Plan and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

#### Fiscal Strategy During Pandemic Response

Future financial sustainability continues to be a cornerstone of the City's organizational foundation and, while some of the strategic initiatives have shifted because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the focus on future financial sustainability has not. The City Council has the foresight to be financially prepared for contingencies by:

- Ensuring adequate unassigned general fund reserves
- Pursuing diverse revenue sources
- Maintaining an excellent credit rating

This has afforded the City the ability to make thoughtful, methodic, and strategic decisions as the local and statewide economic impacts continue to unfold. The goal is not only to be able to weather the current economic storm but to position the City of future long-term sustainable growth once the downturn recedes. This will be accomplished by short-term cash management including rebalancing of the 2020 budget, and on-going liquidity and debt analysis across all funds.

The City will continue to make investments that support continued development of housing, commercial and industrial expansions, and those that best position us for economic recovery as the pandemic impacts recede.

#### Modified Strategic Initiatives

The magnitude of COVID-19 and impacts to the City will require modifications to planned strategic initiatives and related work plans. The City will continue to provide updates to the Common Council on our strategic plan items for 2020 but with the uncertain terrain some of the original planned items for 2020 may be delayed or reconsidered altogether.

#### Principles and Approaches to Recovery

When the City begins the process of reopening, it will be important to approach recovery in a systematic way that aligns with our strategic initiatives. Parallel to those initiatives, staff has developed an initial series of principles to guide our recovery.

- Adaptability in the face of change and uncertainty: As an organization, we will act nimbly and adapt current services to meet the needs of the community amid rapid change.
- Capitalize on opportunities for improvement: Use COVID-19 response to improve processes that can apply beyond the recovery phase and become permanent changes to the way we do business.
- Remove barriers: Address existing regulatory barriers to allow the community to recover more quickly.

- Apply lessons learned in response: Create frameworks that allow Platteville to better manage future crises and community disruptions
- Align, collaborate, and innovate with partners: Collaborative systems will help our partners better navigate current and future crises while developing stronger bonds that will help the community recover together.

## **CONCLUSION**

The City of Platteville is committed to supporting the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan, while following the state's Badger Bounce Back plan and Grant County Health Department's COVID-19 Interim Dashboard, provides for reentry guidelines specific to Platteville. While we are poised to move into Phase 1 of the three phases outlined in the State plan, we will abide by the reentry criteria established by the state and monitored by Grant County Health Department. We pledge to work diligently with our community, business, and county partners to find solutions that move us incrementally forward while operating within state and county guidelines. As guidelines change, we will adapt using the outline contained here, as modified from time to time by the Common Council.

As we look towards the next 12 months and beyond, City staff will continue to focus on its core functions, guided by principles that include flexibility, adaptability, innovation, and collaboration. At the same time, we will continue to meet the goals outlined in the City's 2020 strategic plan. This will ensure that, when this pandemic recedes, we have made the progress necessary to keep our City not only functioning but ready for future growth and development.

This plan cannot be accomplished without the support of our community. We are beyond saddened by the hardships our residents and businesses have endured during this pandemic, but are so grateful for your patience, diligence, and willingness to protect and care of one another. We are a resilient, caring community and will get through this and continue to pioneer us forward together.