

March 15, 2020

Dear Governor Evers, Senator Fitzgerald, Senator Nass, Senator Ringhand, Senator Olsen, Rep. Jagler, Rep. Dittrich, Rep. Horlacher, Rep. Vruwink, Rep. Born & Rep. Plumer:

In conjunction with Executive Order #72, *Declaring a Public Health Emergency in Response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus*, we are writing to request the following items be considered and that all associated statutes and administrative code be temporarily lifted in order to meet these needs.

1. With the closure of all K-12 schools, the childcare needs in our communities have profoundly increased. In addition, some childcare centers have also closed. These closures leave families in a difficult position. In order to address this, we are requesting that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) have all necessary authorities to temporarily allow regulated childcare facilities to operate at alternate locations. This will allow for smaller group sizes and for childcare centers to still operate and meet the needs of families in Wisconsin.
2. Our communities are working tirelessly to ensure that food security is in place for our families. As families are being encouraged to increase social distancing efforts and schools are closed resulting in spending more time at home, we encourage the Department of Health Services (DHS) to make available emergency FoodShare to families and consider an early release of April FoodShare. We want families to be prepared now, and not have to wait until April FoodShare allocations to purchase the necessary food their families may need resulting from being home more and preparing more meals.
3. Our Health Officers are working with all of our community health providers to ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is available to them. Keeping our health care providers safe is critical to our efforts to combat COVID-19. We are requesting that all appropriate state agencies be deployed to survey, assess, and distribute PPE to health providers. The appropriate masks, gowns, gloves and eye shields are crucial to keeping our health care providers safe.
4. Our Clerks have been working to ensure the election season operates safely and with integrity. To that end we are requesting, funding and/or purchasing of pens and hand sanitizer for the election. Having thousands of Wisconsinites share the same pen would be contrary to social distancing efforts we're practicing in our communities. We are also requesting flexibility in the appointment process for election workers. Considering that most of our election officials are senior citizens, and it may be unsafe that they serve as election officials, we are requesting that the Clerk's in our communities have the authority to temporarily appoint election workers. Lastly, as we encourage absentee voting, we will experience a substantial increase in unexpected costs to mail an

increased number of ballots. We are requesting reimbursement, and therefore associated guidance necessary to receive a reimbursement for those costs.

Thank you for your leadership and diligence in ensuring that the safety and security of Wisconsinites is at the forefront. We appreciate your assistance in addressing these matters. Should you have any questions, please contact Mayor Emily McFarland or any other governmental official signed below.

Sincerely,

Emily McFarland, Mayor

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