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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wisconsin Supreme Court Overrules Safer at Home Order, Businesses Can Reopen

Stevens Point, WI – On Wednesday, May 13, the Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned the state’s Safer at Home Order. With this ruling, businesses may reopen.

Portage County Division of Public Health will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic as we have done from the beginning. Public Health also has the obligation to address any outbreaks or spikes that occur. Should this happen, orders may be issued accordingly to protect the public’s health.

The mission of Portage County Division of Public Health is to promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of Portage County residents. Although Safer at Home is no longer in effect, we know that COVID-19 is still prevalent in our communities, state, and nation. “It is our job and passion to protect the community. We know that Portage County community members are smart, care deeply, and will continue to make wise choices when it comes to protecting themselves and our most vulnerable community members.” Said Gary Garske, Portage County Health Officer.

Please, continue to be safe and practice the guidance that has been shared from Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Division of Public Health over the past several weeks. We encourage all community members to continue avoiding non-essential travel, washing their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, practicing physical distancing, wearing a cloth face covering or mask in public, and staying home and calling their healthcare provider if they feel sick. People who are vulnerable and at higher risk of severe complications of COVID-19 should stay home whenever possible. This includes people who are over 65, live in nursing homes or long-term care facilities, and individuals with underlying health conditions who are immunocompromised.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider for testing options. Wisconsin Department of Health Services also has testing locations listed at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/testing>.

Local businesses play a vital role in protecting their customers and staff. Portage County has created a toolkit to assist businesses in reopening which can be found at this link: <https://www.co.portage.wi.us/home/showdocument?id=29576>

The following resources are also available:

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation: <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

If you have questions or immediate needs related to COVID-19, call 2-1-1 or text COVID-19 to 211-211. For up-to-date information, please visit the Portage County Division of Public Health Website or Facebook page.

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