



Collaborating with  
Community Partners to  
enhance a healthy  
thriving Rock County...

Inside this issue:

COVID-19 Prevention	1
COVID-19 Vaccine & FAQs	2
COVID-19 Vaccine Registration	3
VGBA Drain Covers	3
Lifeguard Certifications	3
Drinking Water Requirements	4
Community Health Assessment	4
2021-2022 Permit Renewals	4

North Office  
3328 N US Highway 51  
Janesville, WI 53545

South Office  
61 Eclipse Center  
Beloit, WI 53511

Visit us at:  
<https://www.co.rock.wi.us/publichealth>



# Dive In

## Newsletter

*Designed to keep operators informed and engaged on current issues and trends.*

Spring 2021

Volume 2 Issue 1

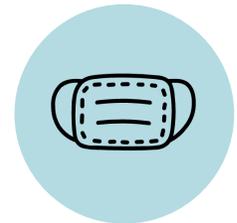
The COVID-19 pandemic brought numerous challenges for public pool operators through various restrictions and significant decreases in public pool use. As we enter Spring and a new phase in pandemic recovery, we want to applaud you for your resiliency and the creative solutions you implemented to overcome these challenges. We sincerely thank you for your efforts and the sacrifices you made to help keep our community safe.

As we continue on the path of recovery, it is important to remember that we must continue implementing COVID-19 prevention practices until community vaccination is complete and cases are firmly under control.

The following are the recommended COVID-19 practices as of April 1st, 2021 and are subject to change:

### **Face Coverings**

Face Coverings are still currently required in public places until May 5th by [local order](#). Continue to require face coverings for patrons except while swimming. Ensure employees are wearing face coverings at all times except while on duty as a lifeguard.



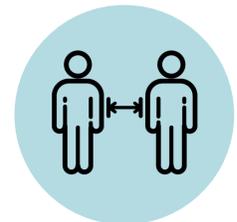
### **Sick Employees**

Ensure sick employees are excluded from work to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.



### **Cleaning & Sanitizing**

Continue to frequently clean and sanitize surfaces.



### **Social Distancing**

Limit facility capacity and ensure patrons are well distanced while enjoying your amenities. Work with your employees to enforce distancing when necessary.

Whether you are re-opening for the Spring/Summer or expanding current availability of your establishment to the public, we recommend using this CDC resource to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>

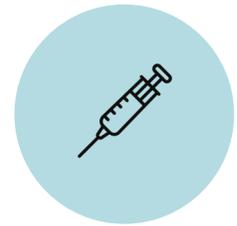
# COVID-19 Vaccine

## Vaccine Eligibility

**Starting April 5th, all individuals ages 16 and older will be eligible to receive the vaccine.**

Below are the current eligible groups in priority order:

- Frontline health care personnel
- Residents and staff in skilled nursing and long term care facilities
- Police and fire personnel, correctional staff
- Adults age 65 and older
- Educators and child care
- Individuals enrolled in Medicaid long-term care programs
- Some public facing essential workers
- Non-frontline essential health care personnel
- Congregate living facility staff and residents
- Individuals with certain medical conditions
- All individuals ages 16 and older



While eligibility has expanded, vaccine providers may still prioritize previously eligible groups before newer groups depending on vaccine availability.

Please visit this link for more information on vaccine eligibility guidelines:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Should I get the vaccine if I've already had COVID-19?

Yes, all eligible groups should get the vaccine. While rare, it is possible that you could be infected with the virus again. The vaccine offers sustained immunity from the virus.

### Should I still wear a mask after I've been vaccinated?

Yes, it is still important to take preventative measures after being fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Until more is known, fully vaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks and socially distance.

### Can I get the vaccine if I am currently sick with COVID-19?

No, you should wait to be vaccinated until you have recovered from your illness and finished your isolation period.

### When can my child be vaccinated?

There are currently no vaccines authorized for use in children under age 12. Clinical trials have not yet started for infants, toddlers, or kids under age 12.

Please visit the following resources for more information on the COVID-19 vaccine:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm>



## Vaccine Registration

There are numerous ways to register for a COVID-19 vaccine. See below for details on how to register:

- Contact your local pharmacy
- If you have a healthcare provider, watch for communications from your health system or check their website for more information
- Register for the Wisconsin DHS Community Vaccination Site in Rock County at Blackhawk Technical College through the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Registry
  - Go to [vaccinate.wi.gov](https://vaccinate.wi.gov), OR
  - Call 844 684-1064
- Check the Rock County Public Health Department website for information
  - Go to [www.co.rock.wi.us/publichealth](https://www.co.rock.wi.us/publichealth) and click on the Coronavirus link, OR
  - Call 608-352-6727 for assistance



## VGBA Drain Covers

It's been over 12 years since the passing of Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Act (VGBA), which required all commercial pools and spas to be equipped with anti-entrapment drain covers. This requirement has been instrumental in significantly reducing the number of entrapment related deaths.

It is important to keep in mind that these covers have a set life span that ranges from 5 to 20 years and it is the responsibility of licensed pool and spa operators to ensure replacement before they expire. Our records indicate that many of the VGBA covers appear to be expiring in 2021.

### **Licensed pools and spas with expired VGBA drain covers will be subject to closure**

Check your records or consult with your installer on expiration dates. Don't wait until the last minute and risk closure! The process can be delayed due to supply issues, DSPS approval, or installer demand. Also remember that operators are required to maintain a VGBA drain & equalizer cover replacement log. Ensure your logs are up to date and available before your upcoming inspection.



See this DATCP website for VGBA and other helpful resources:

[https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/WaterRecreation.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/WaterRecreation.aspx)

## Lifeguard Certifications

Last year, DATCP removed any penalties for utilizing lifeguards with expired certifications due to the suspension of and limited availability of classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. As most department-approved course providers are now offering full in-person courses, completion of a renewal course for a DATCP-approved first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and lifeguarding course will once again be required as of June 1, 2021.

Lifeguards are expected to complete requirements for certification as soon as possible and no later than June 1, 2021. As of June 1, 2021, lifeguards must hold a current certification in department-approved first aid, CPR and lifeguarding.

Resources:

- List of approved lifeguard, first aid, and CPR classes:  
[https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/WaterRecreation.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/WaterRecreation.aspx)



## Drinking Water Requirement

In 2020, DATCP implemented a temporary rule change that allowed operators provide an alternative supply of drinking water in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please be aware that these options continue to be available as COVID-19 continues to be a concern in our community. Any of the following will be considered in compliance with the drinking water supply requirement in ATCP 76 and SPS 390:

- Existing fountain is functional and the employees in charge can demonstrate enhanced sanitation consistent with the [CDC's Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces](#).
- Existing fountains are disabled and there is individually-bottled drinking water provided free of charge at all times when the pool is open.
- Drinking water is provided from a bottle filler and single use disposable cups are provided for guests without bottles.



## Community Health Assessment

The Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) is looking for help reaching people in our community through a Community Health Assessment (CHA). HEAR is conducting a CHA to better understand the current health needs of those living in Rock County.

This short online survey asks about your personal and community health confidentially. This year's survey has a special focus on the social determinants of health, or simply the conditions that shape our health on a day to day basis. Social determinants of health include factors like income/financial status, education, neighborhood and physical environment, employment, social support networks, and access to health care. Addressing these determinants through your feedback is crucial in improving the overall health of our community!

Please complete the survey by **April 16th, 2021** through the link below.

Once completed, the results of this survey, along with other data collected, will be made widely available to the public. The results will be used to inform which health priorities are selected for the next Community Health Improvement Plan.

We invite anyone who lives, works, and plays in Rock County to take the CHA survey at:

English: <https://bit.ly/3tEFxnn>

Spanish: <https://bit.ly/3p4AVnI>



## 2021-2022 Permit Renewals

Renewal notices for the 2021-2022 permit year will be mailed out in early May. Please note that there will **NOT** be a renewal extension like last year.

### Fees are due by **June 30th, 2021**

- If received July 1<sup>st</sup> through July 10<sup>th</sup> - \$80 late fee
- If received July 11<sup>th</sup> through July 15<sup>th</sup> - \$100 late fee (total)
- Facilities that do not renew by July 15<sup>th</sup> are subject to closure.

