DATE: April 9, 2020

TO: Waupaca County Residents and Property Owners,
    Special Attention to Campground Owners/Operators in Waupaca County

FROM: Waupaca County Health Officer Jed Wohlt

RE: Campground Opening Date Postponed

As the local health officer for the County of Waupaca (the “County”), it is my duty to promptly take all measures necessary to prevent, suppress, and control communicable diseases as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 252.03(1). I am authorized under state law to do what is reasonable and necessary for the prevention and suppression of disease, including forbidding public gatherings when deemed necessary to control outbreaks or continued spread of communicable diseases, such as the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Because of the current COVID-19 pandemic throughout the world, the United States, in Wisconsin, and the identified cases within the County, and further based on the known data regarding the threats to public health, welfare and safety caused by COVID-19, now is the time to ensure that all reasonable and necessary actions are taken to reduce the spread of this virus in the County. Therefore, I am issuing this Health Order dated April 8, 2020 and ordering the closure of all campgrounds in the County for a period as long as the Emergency Order #12 (“EO #12”), issued by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services on March 24, 2020, is in effect, (including any extensions of the current EO #12), or as otherwise ordered by this office.

I have determined that this Health Order to close all campgrounds in the County is necessary to prevent, suppress and control the COVID-19 virus and to protect the health, welfare and safety of people and property in the County, and is based upon the following reasons, including but not limited to:

1. The County has a large percentage of aged population, and data demonstrates that the aged population is particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus.
2. The County has approximately 6,300 campsites, which draw thousands of people from both inside and outside our County.
3. Camping in the County encourages non-essential travel.
4. Camping visitors from outside the County will increase shopping at local stores in our County for supplies and groceries, which limits the available supplies for County residents.
5. Camping allows for unmonitored congregating of groups greater than ten (10) people, which is prohibited under EO #12.
6. Camping, and activities related thereto, reduces the ability to properly social distance, especially in communal locations in campgrounds (e.g.: campsites and bathrooms).

This Health Order dated April 9, 2020 will remain in effect as long as the EO #12 is in effect, including any extensions of the current EO #12, or as otherwise ordered by this office.

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