Madison County Public Health
Protective Factors & Risk Reduction for COVID-19
June 2020

Protective factors are individual or environmental conditions or behaviors that reduce risk. Regardless of how you personally view risk, during this phase of the COVID-19 pandemic you should layer as many protective factors as possible. Layering multiple protective factors reduces the risk of COVID-19 spreading in our community which helps make future lockdowns less likely. This guidance is not designed to replace any existing state or local guideline. All activities must adhere to current state orders. This is intended to start thoughtful planning to reduce risk and protect the public's health.

Protective Factor	Actions and Considerations
Location	Select open outdoor locations/venues. Indoor venues carry much greater risk. Block off areas where people may gather at venues. Spread people out over larger areas. Block off unnecessary indoor areas.
Crowd Limits	Reduce the total number of people. General guidance is 50% or less of normal crowd size. Split activities into multiple sessions and split large groups into multiple smaller groups.
Crowd Control	Stagger arrival and departure times. Monitor groups of people coming and going to limit clusters of people.
Registration/Pre-sale	Use a pre-registration system to help with crowd control and crowd limits. Keep names, phone numbers, and emails of attendees for 60 days.
High Risk Populations	Encourage high risk populations (age 65+ or those of any age with chronic underlying conditions) to stay home. Create separate times/places for high risk populations.
Time	Keep events and gatherings short. One-hour or less is ideal when possible. Split large groups into smaller groups and shorter times.
Symptom Checks	Have people check themselves for symptoms. Consider fever screenings before entry. Individuals with symptoms OR individuals with a household member at home with symptoms cannot be allowed to enter or participate.
Signs	Post signs listing all symptoms. Include language that those Individuals with symptoms OR individuals with a household member at home with symptoms will not be permitted to enter or participate.

Protective Factor	Actions and Considerations
Air Flow	Open doors and windows to create outside air movement into indoor areas. Mix inside air with as much outside/exterior air as possible.
Facial Coverings	Require cloth facial coverings for workers and volunteers. Strongly encourage coverings for attendees especially for indoor venues. Cover the nose, mouth, and chin. Do not touch coverings while wearing them.
Social Distancing	Require social distancing of at least 6 feet between members of different households. Use physical barriers, tape, lines, spray paint, cones, or other methods to guide people. Completely block areas where you believe people may gather in groups.
Cleaning	Clean frequently touched areas often with a chemical effective against coronaviruses. Clean objects and surfaces between uses and at least every 1-2 hours.
Surfaces & Objects	Remove any objects and surfaces that are not necessary. Remove common or shared items and displays that people are likely to touch. Have staff or volunteers distribute items to people. Direct people away from unnecessary surfaces and objects.
Hand Hygiene	Provide handwashing areas and make sure soap/paper towels are filled. Provide hand sanitizer in several places (especially high-touch and high-flow areas) and encourage people to bring their own hand sanitizer.
Food	Limit or eliminate food prep/serving. Encourage people to bring their own food and drinks. Provide handwashing or hand sanitizer if food is present.
Enforcement	Develop a plan for enforcing rules and guidelines ahead of time including who will enforce the rules and the process for warnings and removal.
Communication	Tell people about the rules ahead of time to help limit conflict or push back. Establish clear expectations of behavior including consequences for not following the rules.

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Our Mission
We are committed to monitoring and responding to our community's health and wellness needs through innovative services, education, collaboration, and compassionate care.