

Grow to Share Operating During Wisconsin Emergency Order 12 (Safer at Home)

Introduction

The intent of this order is to limit social, travel, and business activities in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 during the current pandemic. It states that “all individuals present within the State of Wisconsin are ordered to stay at home or at their place of residence,” with exceptions noted in the document. Relevant sections from the order are included at the end of this document. A full copy of the order will be distributed with this document. The sections that cover the activities of GTS are discussed below.

Part 9 Human Service Operations allows travel to work or obtain services at community-based settings providing human services. Businesses that provide food for economically disadvantaged individuals are specifically listed.

Part 13 Essential Businesses and Operations includes Human Service Operations as essential businesses and lists food production, cultivation, and farming as Essential Operations expected to remain operating under this order.

In Part 2, it states “All Essential Businesses and Operations are encouraged to remain open. To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses and Operations shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements.”

It has been noted from several government sources that human services offered to disadvantaged individuals are critically important during this pandemic. They have noted the need to support food pantries as people are furloughed/laid off by their employers. Grow to Share’s vision is based on the importance of disadvantage people have access to quality fresh produce. Grow to Share provides between 1,000 – 2,000 pounds of produce per season to the River Falls Food Pantry and other non-profits serving disadvantage people in the area.

Our Position

Therefore, it is recommended that Grow to Share continue to its activities of growing and distributing food to local human service organizations. It will continue to welcome volunteers based on the following conditions:

- Volunteer opportunities will allow volunteers to be productive while maintaining appropriate separation from others.
- Volunteers will be encouraged to bring their own tools as appropriate.
- Volunteers will bring their own drinking water to the site. No drinking from the garden hoses on site.
- Any GTS provided tools will be sanitized by the garden manager using a 10% bleach spray prior to use by a volunteer or before a tool is passed from one volunteer to another.
- When supplies allow hand sanitizer will be available at the site. (Supplies are currently limited at this point)
- Garden manager will define, communicate, and implement appropriate harvesting protocols
- Garden manager will work with agencies receiving food to review GTS's harvest protocols and establish appropriate food distribution procedures.

The food Grow to Share provides is valuable to our disadvantaged neighbors, garden procedures can be established that protect volunteers at the garden and the organizations/people receiving GTS's produce, and the Safer at Home order supports the production of food for distribution to disadvantaged people, therefore Grow to Share will continue to operate under the above guidelines subject to any future guidance.

Exerts from EMERGENCY ORDER #12: SAFER AT HOME ORDER released 3/24/2020

9. Human Service Operations. For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any state, institutional, or community-based setting providing human services to the public. Human Service Operations includes, but is not limited to: long-term care and assisted living facilities, as long as the facility follows all current DHS Recommendations for Prevention of COVID-19 in Long Term Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities and all applicable U.S. Centers for Disease Control Recommendations; residential settings and shelters for adults, seniors, children, victims of domestic abuse, people with disabilities, people with substance use disorders, or mental illness; transitional facilities; home-based settings to provide services to individuals with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, seniors, adults, or children; adult day care,

adult day services, and supportive home care; field offices that provide and help to determine eligibility for basic needs including food, cash assistance, medical coverage, vocational services, or rehabilitation services; developmental centers; adoption agencies; businesses that provide food, shelter, social services, or other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, or otherwise needy individuals. Human Services Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of human services, broadly defined.

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13. Essential Businesses and Operations. All entities described in this section shall meet Social Distancing Requirements between all individuals on the premises to the extent possible. Essential Businesses and Operations shall, to the greatest extent possible, use technology to avoid meeting in person, including virtual meetings, teleconference, and remote work (i.e., work from home). For the purposes of this Order, Essential Businesses and Operations means Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Infrastructure, and Essential Governmental Functions, and the following:

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c. Food and beverage production, transport, and agriculture. Food and beverage manufacturing, production, processing, transportation, and cultivation; farming, livestock, fishing, baking, and other production agriculture, including cultivation, marketing, production, and distribution of animals and goods for consumption; businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including animal shelters, boarding, rescues, kennels, and adopting facilities; farm and agriculture equipment, supplies, and repair services.