

Health Department
1000 Lake View Drive, Suite 100
Wausau, WI 54403-6797



Tel/TDD: 715-261-1900
Fax: 715-261-1901
www.co.marathon.wi.us

Press Release

Safer at Home and Religious Gatherings

DATE: April 3, 2020

Contact: Judy Burrows, Public Information Officer, 715-261-1905

During these challenging times, government and faith communities throughout Wisconsin need to work together to stop the spread of COVID. The result is that our churches are finding new ways to offer their services to their congregation while keeping people **Safer at Home**. Thankfully with technology there are options for staying connected to religious networks during this challenging time. Many churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and other places of worship are offering services through television, radio, and livestream on the internet. Listen to the service, and remember that people all across the community are listening too.

Religion, spirituality and/or belief play a number of roles in the everyday lives of people including being a source of strength, comfort and hope in difficult times and can bring about a sense of community and belonging.

Research has shown that religion, spirituality and/or belief are intertwined with health, well-being and quality of life, particularly with regards to how people deal with ill-health and other challenges they might face. Spiritual activities can reduce feelings of isolation.

We can sympathize with the religious entities that the services are different by their congregants, but the goal is to keep all healthy and return to normal in a quicker fashion by following the practices put in place in **Safer At Home**. Social distancing and avoiding direct contact with others is the only effective means of reducing the spread of COVID. This disease is especially difficult for the elderly and vulnerable populations to overcome.

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 Marathon County Health Department website and Facebook.