



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2020

ASHLAND AND BAYFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH STRONGLY ADVISE AGAINST LARGE GATHERINGS

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, Ashland and Bayfield County Public Health are issuing an Emergency Advisory STRONGLY DISCOURAGING any large events or gatherings, especially gatherings of 250 people or more. This parallels guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which does not recommend gatherings of more than 250 people at this time. Large gatherings include both indoor and outdoor events with a large number of people participating and can include – but is not limited to – concerts, festivals, conferences, parades, weddings, or sporting events. Large events that will draw people from multiple communities are strongly discouraged for two reasons:

1. Increases in people from different geographic areas can accelerate the spread of the COVID-19 viruses in crowded areas; and
2. It is difficult to have public safety measures implemented with large groups of people who may not follow physical distancing or mask wearing recommendations.

This strong advisory excludes: schools and educational facilities, businesses that are involved in essential services or products, local government offices and operations, healthcare facilities and religious gatherings. All entities are encouraged to keep essential gatherings as small as possible and maintain physical distancing over 6' between attendees whenever possible.

Area event organizers are being asked to limit gatherings to less than 250 people or to cancel or postpone plans until a later date. Event organizers that plan to continue with their scheduled events are *strongly encouraged* to work with their local public health department Environmental Health staff on a COVID-19 prevention plan for their event.

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