

Powers and Duties of County Health Officer

16.01 PURPOSE. This ordinance is enacted is to promote and protect the public health, safety, and general welfare.

16.02 JURISDICTION. This ordinance applies in all cities, villages, and towns, provided, however, that any section of the ordinance that has a counterpart in an ordinance of a city, village or town shall not be enforced by the County in said city, village or town, or in a city, village or town with a local health department.

16.03 AUTHORITY. This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority granted in Chapter 252 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

16.04 Definitions. As used in this Ordinance:

1. Public Building means any structure, including exterior parts of such building, such as a porch, exterior platform, or steps providing means of ingress or egress, used in whole or in part as a place of resort, assemblage, lodging, trade, traffic, occupancy, or use by the public including the land upon which the public building is located. Public Building as defined above also includes structures and land where members of the public pay a fee to gain entry or where there is a license required to conduct business with members of the public.

2. Place of Employment means every place, whether indoors or outdoors or underground, and the premises appurtenant thereto, where either temporarily or permanently any industry, trade, or business is carried on, or where any process or operation, directly or indirectly related to any industry, trade, or business, is carried on, and where any person is, directly or indirectly, employed by another or self-employed.

16.05 The Jefferson County Health Officer is the appointed department head, or in the absence of an appointed department head, the acting department head, of the Jefferson County Health Department.

16.06 The Jefferson County Health Officer, upon the appearance of any communicable disease in his or her territory, shall immediately investigate. The Jefferson County Health Officer shall promptly take all measures necessary to prevent, suppress and control communicable diseases. The County Health Officer may inspect schools, places of employment, and other public buildings within his or her jurisdiction as needed to determine whether the buildings are kept in a sanitary condition.

16.07 The Jefferson County Health Officer may establish systems of disease surveillance and inspection to ascertain the presence of any communicable disease within Jefferson County. The

County Health Officer may, with a special inspection warrant issued under [s. 66.0119](#), enter any private property, building, place of employment, vessel or conveyance not open to the public to inspect the same, to issue orders, and/or to remove therefrom any person affected by a communicable disease if necessary to promote the safety and welfare of the public.

16.08 The County Health Officer may issue orders for guarding against the introduction of any communicable disease into Jefferson County, for the control and suppression of communicable diseases, for the quarantine and disinfection of persons, localities and things infected or suspected of being infected by a communicable disease and for the sanitary care of schools, places of employment, public buildings, and other places.

16.09 Any rule or order may be made applicable to the whole or any specified part of Jefferson County or to any vessel or other conveyance. Orders that are issued under the authority herein supersede conflicting or less stringent regulations, orders or ordinances.

16.10 The County Health Officer may close schools and forbid public gatherings in schools, churches, places of employment, public buildings, private property, and other places to control outbreaks and epidemics.

16.11 The County Health Officer may authorize and implement all emergency measures necessary to control communicable diseases and do what is reasonable and necessary for the prevention and suppression of disease including, but not limited to, prohibiting public and private gatherings when deemed necessary to control outbreaks or epidemics.

16.12 Any Order issued by the Jefferson County Health Officer may be appealed to the Jefferson County Board of Health within 30 days of issuance which may rescind, amend, or continue such Order by majority vote of the members present.

16.13 Any person who willfully violates or obstructs the execution of an Order of the Health Officer under this Ordinance and relating to the public health, shall be imprisoned for not more than 30 days or be subject to a fine or forfeiture of not more than \$500, or both, or injunctive relief.

1. The Corporation Counsel shall be responsible for all cases where an injunction to correct and/or abate a violation or forfeiture is being sought.
2. The District Attorney shall be responsible for all cases where imprisonment or a fine

is being sought.

16.14 Severability. Should any portion of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected.

16.15 Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect on the day following the date of publication.