



**ADVOCATE. ADVANCE. LEAD.**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 6, 2020**

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## **WHA Statement on Emergency Order #3**

Wisconsin now has the dubious distinction of having one of the highest rates of COVID infection in the country. Today, COVID hospitalizations in Wisconsin again reached an all-time high, with the rate of increase showing no sign of slowing as the health care system in parts of Wisconsin comes under significant and increasing strain.

For several weeks WHA and others have been urging everyone to take COVID seriously. On the airwaves and in the media, we have taken every opportunity to encourage everyone to do three easy things: wear a mask in public, practice diligent social distancing in all public settings, and wash hands frequently. We appreciate the efforts of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to emphasize the importance of these and other safe steps, and we recognize the growing number of business groups and elected officials who are now calling on everyone to adopt these safe practices. But it is clearer every day that more needs to be done.

WHA learned of the Governor's statewide order and \$100 million in assistance for small businesses today and are currently assessing the details and impacts, but this is what we know right now - Wisconsin is at a critical point in its COVID fight and there is no question that we must all do better and must do more to turn the tide of COVID in our communities. We must get past our differences and work together.