



Date: March 19, 2020

DPH Numbered Memo 2020-13

To: Local Health Departments

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Guidance for Local Health Departments (LHDs)
What to do if someone breaks quarantine

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- When possible, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends voluntary quarantine/isolation.
- If there is reason to believe that an individual may not voluntarily abide by quarantine/isolation recommendations, the LHD should evaluate the individual's circumstances that make non-adherence likely, and provide linkages to available resources that can support quarantine at home. These may include:
 - Food delivery
 - Social support
 - Tele-health/information resources
 - Mental health resources, etc.
- If individuals demonstrate they are unwilling to voluntarily abide, the LHD may have to issue a quarantine/isolation order.
 - The quarantine/isolation order should be issued in writing.
- If the person fails to comply, the LHD may petition a court to order compliance.
 - The LHD must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the directive is the least restrictive measure that will protect the public's health.
- The LHD may employ quarantine guards if intent to violate a quarantine order is shown. Typically, the LHD employs local law enforcement.
 - The quarantine guards have police powers to use all necessary means to enforce the quarantine.
 - The costs of the quarantine guards are the responsibility of the county or municipality.
 - During a state of emergency, if the person is quarantined outside his or her home, those costs may be reimbursable by the state.
- If necessary, the LHD can remove a person to a separate place for quarantine/isolation if removal would not endanger the person's health.

- Anyone who enters a quarantine/isolation premises without authorization is subject to a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or 9 months in jail, or both.
- Anyone who willfully violates laws relating to public health may be subject to 30 days in jail or fined not more than \$500, or both.
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has a toolkit of legal forms to assist LHDs with quarantine/isolation enforcement issues.

Sources of law: [Wis. Stat. §§ 252.06](#) and [252.25](#); [Wis. Admin. Code § 145.06](#).