



REBOUND REPORT 2020

Findings and Action Steps of the Rebound Racine County Task Force

Racine County cultivates innovative, sustainable, and valued opportunities for community and economic growth.

RAMAC serves as Racine's Business Champion; We are the voice of business.





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OVERVIEW

Reopening Racine County through local leadership and cross-sector collaboration.

- Racine County faces ongoing challenges, but Safer at Home is not a long-term solution.
- Our community must balance public safety with a thriving community and economy.
- Cross-sector collaboration, feedback, and buy-in are critical to successfully implement action steps.

Racine County and Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce (RAMAC) formed a community task force to safely and effectively re-open Racine County in preparation of the eventual lifting of Safer at Home restrictions. The task force includes a diverse mix of representatives from businesses, nonprofits, government, faith community, education, and health care. Leaders across organizations participated in sector subcommittees to address the impact of COVID-19.

Task Force Questions



Task Force Timeline

April 27, 2020

FIRST TELECONFERENCE MEETING

April 29 - May 1, 2020

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS BY SECTOR

Early May 2020

RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS



CROSS-SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

PPE NEEDS AND IMPACT (Q1 AND Q2)



More stable PPE supply chain | Prioritize community need and coordinate distribution | Ability to test and re-test rapidly large amounts of people to contain COVID surges | Increased testing increases consumer confidence and public safety when combined with contact tracing and isolation protocol | Best practices to safely reopen and operate | Crowdfunding to support local groups

FINANCIAL IMPACT AND NEEDS (Q1 AND Q2)

Increased costs and reduced revenue, resulting in essential service cuts | Loss of revenue through event and program cancellations | Lower prices for goods and reduced profits | Uncertainty about charging back COVID-19 expenses | Long-term financial supports | Financial and government supports | SBA loans



PLANNING, COMMUNICATION AND CONFIDENCE STEPS (Q3)



- Tools and resources to re-instill consumer confidence (Agriculture)
- Company and bank planning to re-instill financial confidence (Finance)
- Guidelines on daily operations (Government)
- Community guidance for teachers (Education)



STAFFING IMPACT (Q1)

Concerns about mental health, safety and job stability of staff (Nonprofits) | Staff re-alignment across various areas (Finance) | Non-essential staff working remotely (Health Care)

FINANCIAL RECOVERY RESOURCES (Q4)



Payment Protection Program (PPP) funding and guidance (Business; Agriculture; Finance) | Regulatory relief and additional stimulus funds (Finance; Agriculture)

GREATER COORDINATION OF RESOURCES (Q4)



Establish banking relationships with struggling churches (Faith) | Chambers work with businesses to apply for financial relief (Agriculture) | Improve federal, state and local communication on available supports (Health Care) | Coordinate response plan, utilizing state and national best practices (Government; Agriculture)



SECTOR INSIGHTS

The Rebound Racine County Task Force seeks to highlight the unique impact, needs, and recovery efforts by community sector.

Each task force sector shared challenges surrounding funding, public health, clear and consistent communication, access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitation supplies, and long-term planning to successfully reopen. However, the impact of COVID-19 and needs unique to each sector will help plan next steps and ensure long-term success for all community organizations. The agricultural sector, for example, is heavily impacted by supply shifts as demand drastically decreases for some products like milk and increases for others like meat. Nonprofits face increasing demand for services while facing staff and funding cuts. Below is a brief overview by each sector.



AGRICULTURE

Whether facing a reduction in Ethanol use due to fewer drivers or dairy products consumption due to restaurant closures, negative supply shifts impact grain, dairy, and local farmers.

Sector Overview

Impact: Limited consumption with closures, along with greenhouses and farmers markets not allowed to open, hurts local farmers.

Needs: An open restaurant industry is critical to distributing products like dairy so area farmers will not have to dispose of products.

Next Steps: Better public messaging to re-instill consumer confidence, even after re-opening.



BUSINESS

With significant reductions in employees and revenue, businesses need legal, financial, and health supports, clear communication, and PPE and sanitation supplies to reopen.

Sector Overview

Impact: Significant loss of revenue and staff with disruptions to supply chains and customer behavior.

Needs: Extra PPE and sanitation supplies; greater communication and supports; and re-instilled customer confidence.

Next Steps: Improved, proactive education and communication through reliable sources.



EDUCATION

Educators are quickly adapting with online and virtual learning but face many unknowns surrounding staffing, child day care, when to open and close, and general safety practices.

Sector Overview

Impact: Increased virtual learning; limited child day care; unclear when to bring back and support students.

Needs: CARES Act Stimulus for students; access to Wi-Fi and technology; PPE and sanitation supplies; and financial supports.

Next Steps: Community messaging around education; networking with other teachers and schools.





FAITH

Churches quickly adapted through live stream worship, drive-in and online services, and virtual connections with congregations.

Sector Overview

Impact: Concerns with mortgages on new buildings, but overall costs are down.

Needs: Greater collaboration across churches and pastors; greater need for financial resources and guidance.

Next Steps: Willing to help educate and address growing needs in their respective communities.



HEALTH CARE

Health care organizations most frequently expressed a need for PPE and sanitation supplies while providing critical health supports to sick and vulnerable residents.

Sector Overview

Impact: Significant changes in staffing and operations; financial difficulties; and PPE shortages.

Needs: Rapid testing and places to discharge COVID and non-COVID patients; greater coordination among health care providers.

Next Steps: Long-term state and federal funding supports; more nurses and CNAs; and clear information on safety protocol.



FINANCE

The Finance industry faces fewer transactions with closed lobbies and commercial project delays, creating long-term ramifications.

Sector Overview

Impact: Financial strain is felt with fewer consumer loans and slowing business development.

Needs: Social distancing and safety precautions to re-instill confidence and encourage returning customers.

Next Steps: Multi-phased re-opening involving appointments and shields for tellers.



NONPROFITS

Nonprofits must uniquely address increasing demand for critical and essential services while overcoming decreased staff hours and donations.

Sector Overview

Impact: Reduced revenue, fundraising events, and staffing hours with furloughed employees.

Needs: Creative, long-term financial solutions; PPE and cleaning supplies; technology, staff re-entry and community supports.

Next Steps: Strategic planning and financial forecasting with board of directors and community partners.



GOVERNMENT

Government must navigate increasing costs and decreasing revenue while expending more resources to enhance planning.

Sector Overview

Impact: Concerns over long-term PPE supplies for first responders, municipalities, and organizations.

Needs: Guidance on reporting COVIDrelated expenses. Federal emergency relief package for governments.

Next Steps: Develop and clearly communicate guidelines and instructions.



TOURISM

Tourism businesses are the first and hardest hit during the COVID-19 pandemic as services and events are postponed through the unforeseeable future.

Sector Overview

Impact: Staff laid off at restaurants, reduction in occupancy rates at hotels, and fear of the unknown.

Needs: Rally around and support local businesses; statewide, coordinated tourism efforts; safety campaign to re-instill confidence.

Next Steps: Recovery grants for smaller businesses as tourism declines; state leadership to market and advocate for local businesses.

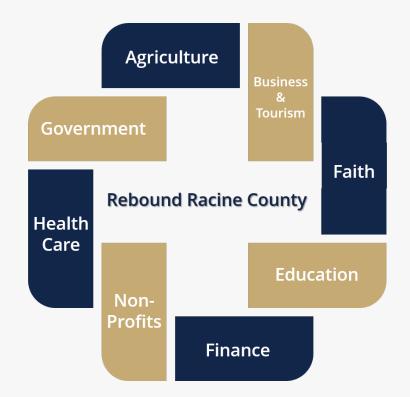


CONCLUSIONS

Coordinated planning and reliable communication are foundational to a safe and efficient recovery; financial supports as well as PPE and sanitation supplies will sustain recovery.

The Rebound Racine County Task Force recommends cross-sector action steps to safely and efficiently re-open Racine County, proactive and clear communication, and greater awareness of and access to critical personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitation supplies, and financial supports.

Planning and acting together in the long term will ultimately help County businesses and organizations thrive in our evolving environment.





We must check in with other businesses in our industry and help them get back on their feet.

- Agriculture Subcommittee



MOVING FORWARD

Task force feedback on how to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, steps to reopen, and needed resources greatly informed recommended actions steps.

The following calls to action – improved communication and financial, PPE and sanitation supports (right) – were consistently expressed across community sectors. However, each requires careful consideration of guidelines and available supplies on a state and national level as Racine County seeks to foster greater alignment and cooperation.

The task force steering committee worked with subcommittee chairs to develop strategies and solutions for their respective sectors as reflected in the following sections.

ACTION STEPS

Develop community action steps to safely re-open Racine County while thriving in a new environment, incorporating lessons learned from other communities and sector-based strategies. As many task force members already identified multi-phased steps to reopen, community organizations must seek cross-sector alignment and mutual support.

COMMUNICATION

Communication must be proactive, clear, consistent, and come from reliable, limited sources to help safely reopen and re-instill public confidence. Many unknowns and competing sources of information result in inaction and stifle progress.

SUPPORTS & SUPPLIES

Centralize information on state and national financial supports, PPE, and sanitation supplies as well as help struggling organizations such as churches, small businesses and nonprofits successfully navigate and apply for supports.

Prioritizing PPE

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and sanitation supplies were the most frequently mentioned need across participating organizations.

Given high local demand, the Rebound Racine County Task Force follows state and national recommendations to prioritize PPE distribution by high-need organizations such as law enforcement and fire services, emergency medical services, hospitals, and long-term care facilities.

The Rebound Racine County Task Force recommends all other community organizations request PPE and sanitation supplies through existing suppliers. If PPE and sanitation supply gaps persist, we encourage partners to reach out to rebound@racinecounty.com.



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REBOUND AGRICULTURE

Action steps include following suggested health and sanitation practices; re-opening community gardens and farmers markets; collaborating on PSA and marketing materials to re-instill consumer confidence; and finding and securing financial supports.



SUGGESTED PRACTICES

View suggested practices on re-opening at <u>"Farmers Markets"</u> and <u>"Community Gardens"</u>.

MARKETING SUPPORT

Farm Fresh Atlas is a way to market agricultural products to the community. Email farmfreshatlas@gmail.com to see how you can participate.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Visit <u>RCEDC/Business Lending</u>
<u>Partners/SBA</u> for financial resources and assistance in agriculture.



REBOUND LARGE BUSINESSES

Action steps include following suggested health and sanitation practices; improving employee relations and communication; creating a health check policy and modifying HR policies to help employees return to work; and creating a safe facility and work environment.





GUIDES, SAMPLE LETTERS AND POLICIES

MRA offers timely resources on the latest Coronavirus (COVID-19) developments, such as sample policies, guidance on communicating and preparing your workplaces, and layoff/closing information. <u>Click here to review resources.</u>



REBOUND SMALL BUSINESSES

Action steps include following suggested health and sanitation practices; utilizing trusted information; collaborating on PSA and marketing materials to re-instill confidence; and securing financial supports.





GUIDES, SAMPLE LETTERS AND POLICIES

MRA offers timely resources on the latest Coronavirus (COVID-19) developments, such as sample policies, guidance on communicating and preparing your workplaces, and layoff/closing information. <u>Click here to review resources.</u>



REBOUND EDUCATION

Action steps include following suggested health and sanitation practices; expanding technology and internet access for students and families; establishing criteria to successfully re-open; and re-allocating space.





FEATURED INITIATIVE: EXPANDING INTERNET ACCESS FOR HIGH-NEED COMMUNITIES

Low-income residents, ethnic and racial minorities, the unemployed, and individuals without health insurance have the greatest need for health care and emergency services within Racine County yet are among the most socially isolated during the COVID-19 outbreak. To combat these challenges, Racine County aims to expand internet access with key education and community partners to improve connectivity for our most impoverished communities during social isolation and share updates.



REBOUND FAITH COMMUNITY

Action steps include following suggested health and sanitation practices; understanding and sharing reliable information; supporting congregations and communities; and connecting with the broader faith community.



ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Email <u>rebound@racinecounty.com</u> to learn how Racine County can help your congregation.

FAITH-BASED NETWORK

Connect with Pastor Melvin Hargrove of Zoe

Outreach Ministries to participate in a
network of officials at community churches.

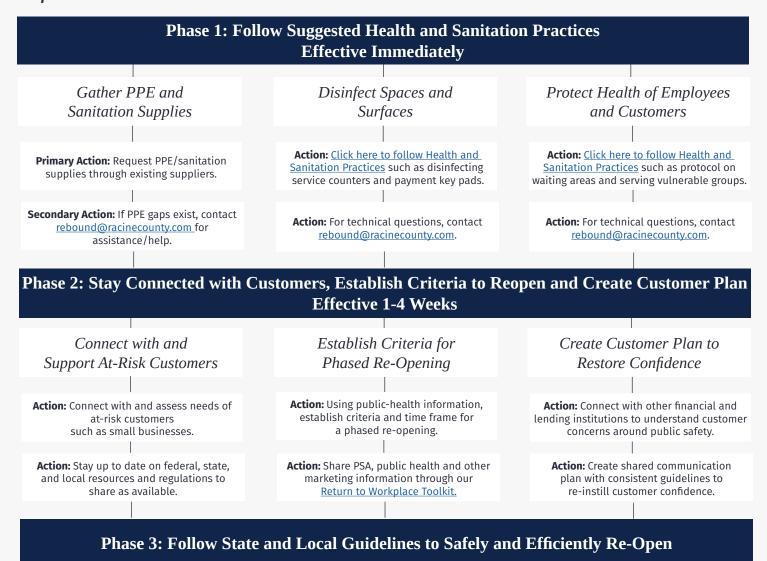
FOR MORE INFORMATION

View daily local and state updates, local resources and closures, and publichealth information at racinecounty.com/coronavirus.



REBOUND FINANCE

Action steps include following suggested health and sanitation practices; connecting with and supporting at-risk customers; establishing criteria for phased re-opening; and creating a customer plan to restore public confidence.





PROMOTE NON-FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND RE-INSTILL CONFIDENCE

Rebound Racine County Task Force encourages financial and other community institutions to add a website button or link to <u>racinecounty.com/coronavirus</u>. Promoting consistent, reliable public-health information and updates are critical to re-building customer confidence.



REBOUND GOVERNMENT

Action steps include following suggested health and sanitation practices; communicating trusted information; rebuilding resident confidence; and working in concert with Racine County and municipal governments to phase in employees.





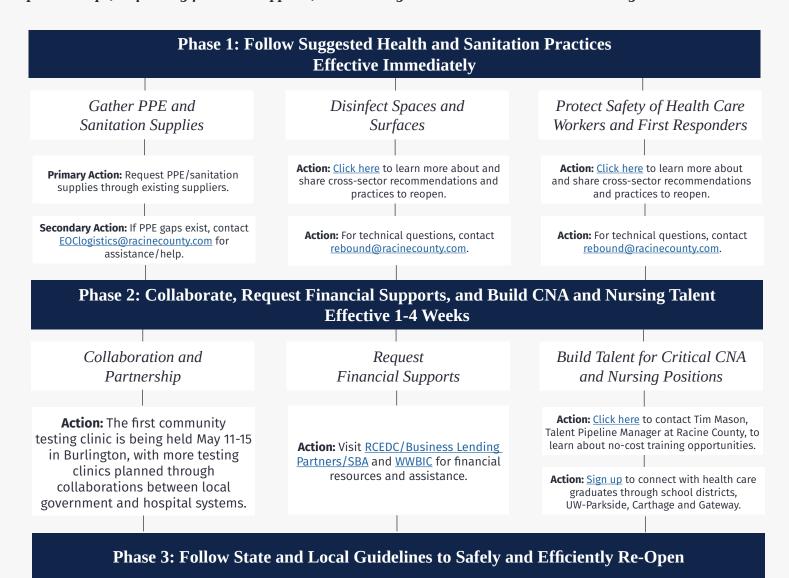
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS: TRANSFORM PUBLIC ROADS TO PUBLIC VENUES

The Rebound Racine County Task Force encourages local municipalities to adopt ordinances to use low-traffic public roads as social-distancing friendly public venues. The additional space will allow businesses and organizations to safely host small gatherings, events, and activities while social distancing. Creative uses of space are the best way to move forward safely and stimulate the economy.



REBOUND HEALTH CARE

Action steps include following suggested health and sanitation practices; collaborating through local partnerships; requesting financial supports; and building critical talent in CNA and Nursing.





COLLABORATIVELY GROWING HEALTH CARE TALENT

Rebound Racine County Task Force encourages health care partners to collaborate with local educational institutions such as school districts, UW-Parkside, Gateway Technical College, and Carthage College to address our long-term public health and workforce challenges. To learn more, connect with the Racine County Talent Pipeline Manager.



REBOUND NONPROFITS

Action steps include following suggested health and sanitation practices; collaborating with local networks; capitalizing on community supports; and phasing in customer interaction.





HERE TO HELP: MEETING THE ESSENTIAL NEEDS OF STRUGGLING FAMILIES

Many residents are in isolation and interact less with public agencies assisting with essential needs. Additionally, residents and families face evolving needs and new challenges to navigate programming and services. Under the County's new Here to Help program, families can connect to receive help meeting essential needs. To learn more, email heretohelp@racinecounty.com.



REBOUND TOURISM

Action steps include restoring consumer confidence consistent with health and sanitary practices; collaborate with the State of Wisconsin on marketing and new funding strategies; deploy new digital marketing strategies; and creatively attract visitors to Racine County's outdoor experiences to accommodate social distancing.



SUGGESTED HEALTH AND SANITATION PRACTICES





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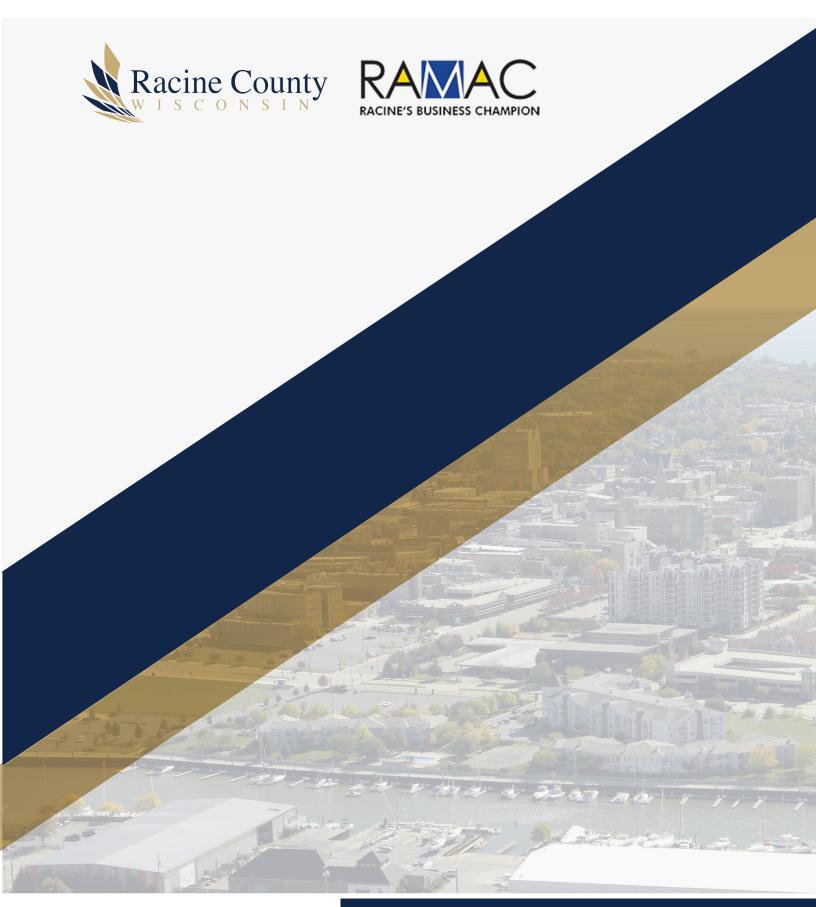












The Rebound Racine County Task Force findings and action steps are subject to local, state, and federal guidelines and are intended as non-binding recommendations. Please consult your Human Resources professional or legal counsel.