



Florence County Health Department

501 Lake Ave PO Box 410 Florence, Wisconsin 54121 715-528-4837
A.Seibold, RN, MS Health Officer/Director



NEWS RELEASE

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Ann Price
Florence County Health Department
715-528-4837
FAX 715-528-5269
annprice@co.florence.wi.us

New Park and Ride Site at Pat's Grocery Store in Florence County

[Florence, WI] –

According to County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2020), which is associated with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, the percentage of adults in Florence County that drive alone to work is 87%. In 2019 the rate was 91%. However, this rate is still 6% higher than the state of Wisconsin (81%) and 15% (72%) higher than the top U.S. top performing states. Also, among Florence County workers who commute in their car alone for more than 30 minutes is reported at 16% which is down 1% since 2019/2018.

Even though Florence County data shows that our community is showing a slight decrease in the number of people driving alone to work or driving from more than 30 minutes to work an additional strategy has been implemented by the Florence County Healthy and Safe Living Task Force, in partnership with community partners (e.g. Pat's Foods, Florence County Highway Department, the Florence County Sheriff's Office, and the Highway Safety Committee). Community partners worked together to provide an evidence-based carpool and rideshare program to help commuters share transportation. This Park and Ride program at Pat's Foods in Florence in the southwest corner of the parking lot. Please note any restrictions on the signs. Research shows that carpools and rideshares can be informal arrangements between individuals or be formally arranged through a ridesharing program. Finally, studies also suggest that these programs can be cost effective, improve mobility and quality of life for seniors, and reduce stress for commuters (University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2010).

For more information, go to the Florence County Health Department webpage at <http://www.florencecountywi.com/>. The Florence County Health Department is located on the first floor of the courthouse. Need health insurance? Visit access.wi.gov to see if you qualify for benefits.

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