



*Brown County*  
Planning and Zoning  
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## **Guidance for Septic System Installation Inspections and Soil Verifications during the COVID-19 Outbreak**

The purpose of this communication is to explain how the Brown County Planning and Zoning will respond to inspections for septic system installation and soil verification requests during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Brown County Planning and Zoning is committed to the health, safety and welfare of the public, contractors and our workforce. We are committed to providing the community with the services they need during this difficult time. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Brown County is following CDC, MDH, and local Public Health guidance and recommendations aimed at reducing the spread of infectious disease, such as hand hygiene, hand washing and sanitizing, covering the nose and mouth with tissue or flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing, social distancing, staying home when sick, and reducing public accessibility to County building facilities. County employees will be observing these measures, and we ask that our partners in the construction industry, business owners and homeowners also commit to the recommended measures for limiting transmission of the virus.

Brown County Planning and Zoning staff has limited staff time for field inspection and on-site visits, but will work hard to meet the needs of Brown County residents as best as possible. For inspection and verifications of septic system installation and soils, please call 507-233-6640 or email your inquiry to [Septic@co.brown.mn.us](mailto:Septic@co.brown.mn.us). All requests must be made **at least 24 hours beforehand**, however will require flexibility from all parties. The following protocol for inspections will be taken:

- Social distance of at least six feet be provided throughout the work site, including at the point of inspection
- All crew personnel cannot be sick or showing symptoms of a cold or the flu within 3 days of inspection
- For soil verifications: Soil boring profile should be removed from probe and placed on the grass or a tarp for viewing and if a soil pit please excavate an accessible ramp for staff to safely access and exit
- For all on-site visits, the requester must verify that all safety practices and precautions are being taken to ensure safety to all staff present

In order to minimize opportunities for spread of infectious disease during the COVID-19 outbreak by limiting social contact, inspectors are authorized to be situationally flexible, limiting inspections to only those absolutely necessary and, when possible and practical, using photos, video, and other methods to observe and document that work is compliant with code requirements.

Brown County is committed above all, to the health and safety of the community. The COVID-19 outbreak presents challenges to all of us as we work to build a safe community. Working together, we can keep construction projects moving forward while doing our best to reduce risks of the spread of the disease.