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Governor asks residents to “stay home, stay safe, save lives”

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- Yesterday, Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order (EO 2020-21), directing Michiganders to temporarily stay in their homes unless they’re a part of the critical infrastructure workforce, engaged in an outdoor activity, or performing tasks necessary to the health and safety of themselves or their family.

The Executive Order went into effect on March 24 at 12:01 a.m. and will continue until April 13, 2020.

What does the Executive Order mean for residents? Under this “stay at home” order, all Michiganders must stay in their homes, with a few exceptions. Some of those exceptions include:

- To get take-out food from a restaurant or bar or to go to the grocery store
- To go to the pharmacy to get prescriptions
- To go to the bank or credit union
- To get gas
- To go to work (if part of the critical infrastructure workforce)
- To care for a family member
- To volunteer for an organization that provides food assistance
- To engage in recreation, such as going for a walk, run or bike ride

See the Executive Order 2020-21 for a full list of exceptions.

Anyone leaving their homes must stay at least six feet from others, not counting those with whom they live.

What does the executive order mean for businesses? Businesses that employ critical infrastructure workers may continue in-person operations, but must follow social distancing practices to protect workers and patrons, including the promotion of remote work to the fullest extent possible and preventing workers from entering the premises if they display respiratory symptoms.

Workers who are considered critical include health care and public health, law enforcement and first responders, gas station and grocery store workers, childcare workers, restaurant employees, and more. See the Executive Order 2020-21 for a full list of critical infrastructure workers.

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2- Stay home, stay safe

In just 14 days, Michigan has gone from 0 cases of COVID-19 to over 1,000 cases. We all need to do our part to stop COVID-19. If everyone stays home, except for critical services, we will slow the spread.

“It is very important for everyone to follow the emergency order,” said Marcus Cheatham, Health Officer for the Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD). “The order will help us avoid overwhelming the health care system. Without the order there is a risk we will be overwhelmed like other countries that didn’t react in time.”

There are a number of things we all can do to help stop the spread of COVID-19. They include:

- If you think you have symptoms of COVID-19, call your health care provider. If you do not have a health care provider, call the nearest hospital.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If soap and water aren’t available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with those who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home and avoid contact with others.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in public.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department is working closely with local, State and Federal agencies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. For reliable and up-to date information, follow MMDHD on Facebook, and visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

Those who have COVID-19 questions can call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-535-6136 daily between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.

We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community.

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