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Health Department Reminds Business of Provisions of Stay Home, Stay Safe

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- In an effort to help slow the spread of COVID-19, the Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) is reminding businesses that have been deemed “essential” that they must comply with the Governor’s Emergency Order 2020-21 while operating. This includes screening employees for symptoms of COVID-19. If employees are symptomatic, they may not work.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, no one may operate a business that requires workers to leave their homes “except to the extent that those workers are necessary to sustain or protect life or to conduct minimum basic operations.”

Employers are reminded:

- Only essential employees may work during the pandemic. Essential employees are defined as “those whose in-person presence is strictly necessary to allow an operation to maintain the value of inventory and equipment.”
- Employers may not discharge, discipline, or otherwise retaliate against an employee for staying home from work if they or one of their close contacts tests positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms of the disease.
- During the pandemic employers are required to adopt daily screening policies to prevent workers from entering the worksite if they display respiratory symptoms or fever or have had contact with a person who is known or suspected to have COVID-19.
- Limit capacity inside facilities to provide for social distancing between customers and employees. This includes, but is not limited to use of signs, contact barriers, entrance limits and specialized hours.

Emergency Order 2020-21 did not include details about how businesses should go about screening employees, so MMDHD has issued its own emergency order including instructions and tools for employers. The materials can be found on the Health Department’s website: www.mmdhd.org/coronavirus

First responders, health care personnel, pharmacies and others working to mitigate COVID-19 are exempt and are able to work after a potential exposure as long as they are monitored for symptoms.

Employers who have questions, or employees who would like to file a complaint may call:

Clinton County: 989-224-2195

Gratiot County: 989-875-3681

Montcalm County: 989-831-5237

*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.
Advancing innovative solutions to achieve healthier outcomes*

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