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## MMDHD Responds to COVID-19 Emergency Order

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- Yesterday the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued an Emergency Order under the Public Health Code to update COVID safety requirements for Michiganders. As expected, many parts of earlier emergency orders are continued. The complete order can be found here:

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MDHHS\\_epidemic\\_order - Gatherings masks bars sports - FINAL 704287 7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MDHHS_epidemic_order_-_Gatherings_masks_bars_sports_-_FINAL_704287_7.pdf).

Here is a partial summary of key points in the document:

- Face coverings continue to be required in public places, schools, businesses, government offices, and other operations.
- Indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people, however gatherings of 10-500 can occur if following specific restrictions (see 1(c)3 of order).
- Outdoor gatherings are limited to 100 people, however gatherings of 100-1,000 can occur if following specific restrictions (see 1(c)6 of order).

The new Emergency Order is issued under MCL 333.2253 of the Public Health Code, which gives the director of MDHHS this authority. It states: "If the director determines that control of an epidemic is necessary to protect the public health, the director by emergency order may prohibit the gathering of people for any purpose and may establish procedures to be followed during the epidemic to insure continuation of essential public health services and enforcement of health laws. Emergency procedures shall not be limited to this code." This authority is not tied to the emergency orders that were overruled by the Michigan Supreme Court.

The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) expects additional guidance from MDHHS in the future.

In addition to the guidance above, MMDHD reminds the community of the following:

- Employers are still responsible for the health and safety of their employees and customers, and should continue to follow all CDC, MDHHS and MIOSHA guidance. Executive Directive 2020-06 (different from an emergency order) instructing Michigan government agencies to enforce COVID-19 safety in businesses is still in effect.
- County governments should continue using their COVID-19 safety plans. Remote meetings remain legal under Executive Directive 2020-02.
- Schools should continue to follow their COVID-19 plans and other Michigan Department of Education guidance under House Bills 5911-5913, the Return to Learn plan.

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“The Mid-Michigan District Health Department wants to be sure that the public understands that basic public health work will continue unchanged,” said Marcus Cheatham, Health Officer for MMDHD. “All basic public health operations including contact tracing, quarantines and food and water sanitation are still required by law and must go on.”

The new guidance issued yesterday is still referred to as an “emergency order” and should not be confused with the emergency orders vacated in a recent Supreme Court ruling. Persons with suggestions and concerns about this order have been invited to submit their comments via email to [COVID19@michigan.gov](mailto:COVID19@michigan.gov).

*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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