

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**Monroe County Health Department Latest Update on COVID-19 Response**

**Monroe, Mich. March 19, 2020, 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time Zone** – The County of Monroe’s response to the National Emergency Declaration and the State of Michigan’s statewide state of emergency against the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Emergency response plan for public health has been activated and implemented.

**Update on (COVID-19 Cases) in Monroe County-**

- The Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) confirmed the county count of positive Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases has increased to three (3);
  - 2 adult females
  - 1 adult male
- The MCHD continues working closely with each positive confirmed individual to identify and contact others who may have been potentially exposed.
- Individuals who have been in contact with the confirmed case will be notified as part of the investigation as necessary.
- These individuals will not be provided identifying information about the case, but only that they have been named as a contact and will be instructed on next steps for medical monitoring or testing as needed.
- Everyone should be practicing the prevention/mitigation strategies as recommended; see proper personal hygiene practices listed below.

**Other Testing Updates:**

- The number of Monroe County cases being tested is now at one-hundred eight (108); Monroe County’s population is 152,021.
- In the State of Michigan, there are 336 total positive cases of COVID-19; see table at bottom of press release for more information.
- There are commercial laboratories beginning to perform COVID-19 testing. Their test counts may not be included in the numbers reported from the MCHD due to timely reporting/collecting data from these laboratories.

**Who Should be Tested for COVID-19:**

1. Individuals with signs/symptoms of COVID-19 infection who are identified as having contact with someone else with a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection and are not members of the same household or congregate living situation as the confirmed case (unless as part of a public health investigation).
2. Individuals who become symptomatic while being in a 14-day monitoring and quarantine period (such as, but not limited to, monitoring due to travel from a region with widespread transmission).
3. Symptomatic individuals who are part of a public health investigation of a cluster of illness associated with a vulnerable population (e.g., long term care facility).

4. Symptomatic individuals who may be more likely to infect many of people or a vulnerable population (e.g., healthcare providers and those living in congregate settings like dorms, camps, long term care facilities).
5. Individuals presenting with severe illness requiring hospitalization or causing mortality and having no other identified etiology.

### **How To Get tested. What is the procedure:**

- Individuals should contact their Health Care Provider (HCP) by phone if experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- COVID-19 symptoms may appear in as few as two (2) days or as long as fourteen (14) days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Do **NOT** arrive at the HCP, hospital, Urgent Care center or Public Health Department without prior communication.
- The HCP will notify the Health Department if COVID-19 testing is needed
- The Health Department will contact the individual to schedule the testing procedure
- The Health Department is **NOT** conducting COVID-19 testing at their facility. Do not go there.

### **Why the Need for Testing:**

Testing of individuals who meet the criteria is imperative to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Close contacts of suspected positive individuals will receive a phone call by the Health Department for further monitoring. If individuals do **NOT** meet above-referenced criteria it is imperative they do not inundate the health care system by visiting the hospital, urgent care or HD. Health care resources need to be reserved for the most severe cases.

### **Practice Proper Personal Hygiene:**

- Proper hand washing is vital in slowing the spread of the illness in our homes and community. Hand sanitizer can be substituted when soap and water is not available. Sanitizer should have a 60% alcohol strength solution.
- There is no vaccine for COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure to it. To do this, practice social distancing (maintaining 6 feet or more from other individuals) and limit gatherings with groups or large numbers of people.
- Older adults and those with underlying health issues are deemed to be at a higher risk of developing more serious complications. Underlying health issues such include; diabetes, heart disease and lung disease. These persons must take extra precautions to avoid gatherings. Call to check on your neighbor.
- Avoid contact with anyone who is sick. Do not be afraid to ask someone if they are feeling healthy.
- Every citizen is asked to be considerate of others. Stay home and away from others in your home if you are not feeling well. Cough into an elbow or sleeve
- It's important to take good care of yourself during this time, eat well, get plenty of rest, try to get some exercise (take a walk, etc..) and take a break from the news media which can sometimes generate further anxiety.

## **Update on Michigan Governor's Executive Orders**

### **Executive Order 2020-14:**

The Governor issued Executive Order 2020-14, extending the deadline for Michigan residents to pay back taxes and avoid foreclosure on their property during the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

### **Executive Order 2020-15:**

The Governor issued Executive Order 2020-15 to order a temporarily change to the Open Meetings Act to allow public bodies to conduct their meetings electronically, while also facilitating public participation, until April 15, 2020.

### **Executive Order 2020-16:**

The Governor issued Executive Order 2020-16 to expand the capacity for child care services for health care workers, first responders, and other members of the essential workforce providing critical infrastructure to Michiganders during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. The order provides temporary and limited relief from certain regulatory restrictions regarding child care services and facilitates the use of certain property for child care services. Information on the benefits available is being shared with eligible workers and follow-up survey for service demands will follow in the community.

### **On Line Map to Find Meals During School Closures:**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has launched an online map for families to find locations where meals are being provided during this period of school closures. The map can be found at: [www.michigan.gov/meetupeatup](http://www.michigan.gov/meetupeatup), and will be updated twice each day during the closure period.

### **Food and Supplies:**

Grocery stores continue to be open. Supplies are varied. Please do not hoard supplies or overstock. Supply chains are working to back fill existing shortages.

### **County Operations and Courts:**

All Monroe County facilities including the Monroe County Courthouse continue to be restricted to the public except for the provision of essential public services only until further notice. This includes the Monroe County Courts. Visit the Monroe County Website for on-line information at [www.co.monroe.mi.us](http://www.co.monroe.mi.us)

### **Additional Information and Resources:**

Continue to rely on reputable sources for further information. These resources are listed below:

Reputable resources for COVID-19 updates can be found at: [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus) and [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19).

### **Hotlines for Information:**

**Monroe County Hotline Number: 734-243-8600**

Public Health Public Professionals are staffing the County Hotline. Call volumes are high at various times so please be patient as these calls are answered to provide the best guidance to our citizens.

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services hotline number: 1-888-535-6136**

**Overall Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by County**

<b>County</b>	<b>Cases</b>
Bay	1
Charlevoix	1
Clinton	1
Detroit City	75
Eaton	2
Genesee	1
Ingham	6
Isabella	1
Jackson	1
Kent	7
Leelanau	1
Livingston	1
Macomb	55
Midland	1
Monroe	2
Montcalm	1
Oakland	105
Otsego	1
Ottawa	1
St. Clair	4
Washtenaw	14
Wayne	44
Not Reported	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>336</b>

This table is taken from [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus). It is updated daily by the State of Michigan at 2 P.M. Cases listed may not be the most up to date information. Information about the number of cases in Monroe County contained in the body of the press release is up to date information, as of the time of this press release.