

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Monroe County Residents, 'Stay Home, Stay Safe'

Monroe, MI, March 24, 2020-To combat the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan, Governor Whitmer signed the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order on March 23, 2020. The order is in effect through April 13, 2020. For at least the next 3 weeks, Monroe County residents are required to adhere to the Executive Order for their own health and well-being, along with that of their family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and the public in general.

"We fully expect to see more cases of COVID-19 and the only way to slow the virus down is to follow our governor's order to "Stay Home and Stay Safe," said Ms. Kim Comerzan, Health Officer at the Monroe County Health Department. "This means going out only if absolutely necessary; for groceries, medications, gas/fuel and such. Essential workforce are exempt from this order and categorized as critical infrastructure; defined as those operations necessary to sustain or protect life," she added.

"In this unprecedented time, it will take all of us doing our part and that means staying home during the next few weeks as required in Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-21, as outlined in this press release." The full Executive order can be found at:

https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-522626--,00.html

A summarized list of activities that are and are not permissible can be found below.

YOU CAN:

- Go to the grocery store or pick up take-out food.
- Go to the pharmacy to pick up a needed prescription.
- Engage in outdoor activities like walking, hiking, running, biking.
- Go to the hospital or secure any care necessary to address a medical emergency or to preserve your health or the health of a loved one.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Return to Michigan to a home or place of residence from outside the State.
- Leave the State for a home or residence elsewhere.
- Walk your pets and take them to the veterinarian for needed medical care.

YOU MAY NOT:

- Leave the home to work unless your employer designates you as a critical infrastructure worker.
- Participate in any public gatherings.
- Visit someone in the hospital, nursing home, or other residential care facilities (with limited exceptions).
- Go to the mall or to restaurants.

BUSINESSES THAT REMAIN OPEN FOR IN-PERSON WORK MUST TAKE AGGRESSIVE STEPS TO MINIMIZE THE VIRUS'S SPREAD. THEY MUST:

- Promote remote work to the fullest extent possible.
- Restrict the number of workers present in-person on the job.
- Keep employees at least six feet from one another to the maximum extent possible and enabling social distancing for customers who are standing in line.
- Any other social distancing practices and mitigation measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

Hotlines for Information:

Monroe County Hotline Number: 734-243-8600 , 8:30 A.M. through 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday

Call volumes are high at times so please be patient as these calls are being answered to provide the best guidance to our citizens.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services hotline number: 1-888-535-6136, 8:00 A.M. through 5:00 P. M., Daily