Kim Comerzan, MSN, RN, CNS *Health Officer/Director*
Carl J. Schmidt, MD, MPH *Chief Medical/Examiner/Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   PRESS RELEASE CONTACT: Kim Comerzan,
                                                                                        Health Officer/Director: 734-240-7804

MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

State of Michigan Coronavirus Hotline Available Saturday and Sunday

Monroe, MI, March 20, 2020 – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will have a coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline available on Saturday and Sunday from 8 A.M. until 5 P.M. for general questions from the public. This hotline is also open Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. until 5 P.M.

The number for the MDHHS hotline is: 1-888-535-6136

The Monroe County Health Department continues to operate its coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline to assist in answering questions from Monroe County residents. The hotline is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M.

The phone number for the MCHD hotline is: 734-243-8600

The hotline will be staffed by Monroe County Health Department personnel to answer general questions related to Coronavirus (COVID-19). The hotline is not for specific medical questions. Please continue to call 734-240-7832 with these questions.

"It is important for residents of Monroe County to have a resource available on the weekend for general questions to be answered about COVID-19," stated Kim Comerzan, Health Officer of the Monroe County Health Department. "We encourage our residents to utilize the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services hotline during the weekend hours listed," she added.

The MCHD continues to encourage the public to be diligent in its efforts to reduce the spread of germs and protect everyone's health. Prevention measures include:

- **Washing your hands often. Scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds.**
- **Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Staying home when you are sick, except to seek medical attention when necessary. If you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (see below), call ahead to your primary care physician for instruction on how to proceed.**
- **Routinely cleaning and disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces.**
- **Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then discard. Immediately wash your hands.**
- **Practicing social distancing. This means keeping six feet between people as much as possible.**
- **Limiting attendance at large gatherings or community events.**

The Health Department is encouraging all Monroe County residents to gather information from reliable sources, such as the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Valuable and timely information is available at these locations.

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

COVID-19 symptoms may appear in as few as one (1) day or as long as fourteen (14) days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath.