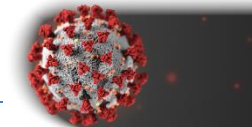




Calhoun County

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response—Situation Update

3/20/20, 12:00 p.m.



What's New?

At this time there are no confirmed COVID-19 cases within Calhoun County.

County and Court offices and facilities are closed to the public from March 17-April 10 and will continue with employees critical to providing essential services and functions.

Today, March 20, the IRS extended the 2019 tax filing deadline from April 15 to July 15.

On March 19 EMS Director Dunham submitted our Declaration of a Local Emergency signed by Board Chair Steve Frisbie. This was precautionary in case any available funding requires this declaration in addition to the state and national declarations already in place.

March 19 the Governor issued an Executive Order providing for child care relief during this emergency, and announced the process for small businesses to get Economic Injury Disaster relief. The Red Cross indicated a serious need for blood donors. United Way's Disaster Relief Fund is now activated and will be deployed to help residents with basic needs through the 211 coordination process.

On March 18 the Governor enacted an Executive Order extending from March 31 to May 29 the deadline to redeem foreclosed properties. She issued another E.O. temporarily changing the Open Meetings Act to allow for remote participation, and also requested on March 18 use of the National Guard with federal funding. President Trump signed on March 18 a new Coronavirus Emergency Relief Package provide paid leave to employees of certain employers. We believe it does not apply to the County as a large employer.

On March 17 Gongwer reported that Gov. Whitmer has indicated that "the next wave" of closures is possible. On March 18 Gongwer reported that the Governor is denying any consideration of a statewide "shelter in place" plan or to close all businesses.

Bars and restaurants are limited from March 16-March 30 to carryout orders only. All Michigan cafes, coffee houses, bars, taverns, brewpubs, distilleries, clubs, movie theaters, indoor and outdoor performance venues, gymnasiums, fitness centers, recreation centers, indoor sports facilities, indoor exercise facilities, exercise studios, spas and casinos are also closed. So far not included are barbershops, hair salons, nail salons or funeral homes.

The Governor also banned from March 16-April 5 all indoor events that have more than 50 people. This ban does not include health care facilities, workplaces not open to the public, the state legislature, mass transit, grocery stores, and the performance of agricultural or construction work.

All K-12 schools remain closed through April 5.

Response Areas and Current Strategies:

COMMUNICATIONS/EDUCATION:

1) Internal Coronavirus Response Leadership

- Current Strategies: Continuing to add updates and reference documents to the internal MS Teams Channels. MS Teams response group includes county executive team, court administrators and presiding judges, countywide elected officials, and health department and sheriff's office officials. Conference calls being scheduled for every few days, as needed, now using Zoom platform. Health Officer will inform county leadership immediately when there is a confirmed case within Calhoun County.

2) Community Response

- Current Strategies: Health Dept. continues to convene healthcare provider phone group; AMSA established new regular intergovernmental conference calls on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Next week 3/25 will feature Sheriff Saxton and BCPD Chief Blocker, Durk Dunham and United Way CEO Chris Sargent. County GIS is available to provide any COVID-19 community mapping needs. Health Department and Sheriff's Office to produce PSA today.

3) Website

- Current Strategies: www.calhouncountymi.gov website home page is main source and includes latest counts on cases and testing. Health Department will update testing data every day between 8am-2pm, before state posts 2:00 daily updates.

4) Educating Employees

- Current Strategies: FAQ sheet still being developed. Next employee communication will include updated new Health Emergency Leave Policy, effective immediately, and message about using PTO and being available to be called to work if needed. Regular monthly Department Head/Elected Officials Meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, March 24, is still planned via conference call.

Reinforcing Best Practices for Cleanliness and Safety:

1) Individual Workspaces and Offices

- Current Strategies: HR distributed personal hand sanitizers to all county departments. Encouraging departments to continue to use disinfecting wipes for workstations .

2) Public Spaces

- Current Strategies: “Wash Your Hands” posters in county buildings. Hand Sanitizing wall mounts and pedestals still backordered. Contract janitorial service and facilities staff have increased levels and frequency of routine environmental cleaning on surfaces and in restrooms. Digital displays also reinforcing personal hygiene.

3) Encouraging Employees to Stay Home When Sick

- Current Strategies: Countywide leadership directed to send sick employees, and contractors, home; new “Health Emergency Leave Policy” negotiated with most union groups and updated based on changed situation with county buildings closed to public and many employees now on paid leave. Policy will provide up to 80 hours (non-PTO bank) paid leave for anyone out sick or caring for sick family during COVID-19 pandemic period.

4) Telecommuting Options

- Current Strategies: County Administration and IT available upon request to address IT infrastructure needs for working remotely. B.Wilcox is backup contact for S.Mason for phone and central services requests and issues.

5) Social Distancing Measures

- Current Strategies: The Judiciary, elected officials and department heads have determined plans for carrying out essential functions and providing services to the public while limiting in-person visits and meetings. Steps are also encouraged to maximize physical space between employees working in the same workplace.

Limiting Large Events, Public Gatherings and Work Travel:

- Current Strategies: Restricting Employee travel through April. Encouraging departments to cancel non-critical board and committee meetings and events. 3/19/20 regular BOC meeting was cancelled. IT working on MS 365 Teams public meeting option for the 4/14 BOC meeting. Recyclerama event was cancelled; recycling centers and playground at Bridge Park are closed.

Updated COOP Plans for the COVID-19 Threat

- Current Strategies: 3/5/20 BOC Administrative Response Resolution adopted. Health Dept. and Countywide COOP Annexes for Pandemics updated for COVID-19. County departments requested to track all COVID-19 response related expenses; MAC and NaCO asking for COVID-19 related cost estimates to encourage our governor to declare a “Major Emergency” so that Michigan local governments can be eligible for reimbursement funding. **Need to submit these to finance by Monday, 3/23 EOB.