

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
CALHOUN COUNTY  
CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

In the Matter of:

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER ORDER  
PURSUANT TO MCL 333.2453  
ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR THE QUARANTINE  
OF PERSONS IDENTIFIED AS COVID-19 CLOSE CONTACTS

Matters of concern to the health of Calhoun County citizens having been brought to the attention of the Administrative Health Officer of the Calhoun County Public Health Department, and the Administrative Health Officer having made the following determinations, issues this Order pursuant to the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL §333.2453 (1), to establish procedures to be followed by, and restrict the public gathering of, healthy persons identified as close contacts of a known or probable case of COVID-19:

DETERMINATIONS

1. MCL 333.2453 (1) gives a local health officer the authority to issue emergency orders necessary to control an epidemic and insure the continuation of essential public health services and the enforcement of health laws; including orders to establish “. . . procedures to be followed by persons . . .” and to prohibit “. . . the gathering of people for any purpose.”
2. Limiting community transmission of the infectious agent that causes the COVID-19 disease is a significant factor in the control of the current epidemic and is necessary to protect the public health of the citizens of Calhoun County.
3. Quarantine of healthy persons who are a close contact, is necessary to control the community transmission of COVID-19.
4. The Calhoun County Department of Public Health determines that a person is a close contact based upon the guidelines issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as applied to the local conditions of the COVID-19 epidemic in Calhoun County, at the time of the contact.
5. Controlling community transmission has a demonstrated positive impact on the course of the COVID-19 epidemic, and reduces the strain on hospitals, emergency medical services, ambulance and patient transport service, and other essential public health services.
6. An increasing degree of public pressure has been directed at schools, employers and other organizations to ignore the significant public health benefit of quarantine and permit active participation of close contacts in school, sports, the workplace and other public events, despite the increased risk such conduct poses to specific populations or community transmission of COVID-19 during the current epidemic in Calhoun County.
7. If failure to quarantine becomes widespread the control of community transmission will become a more significant public health problem.
8. Quarantine by Health Officer Order will assure employees that they can use the non-retaliation provisions of the COVID-19 Employment Rights Act; MCL 419.401, et seq.

9. Schools, employers, and other organizations have asked the Calhoun County Public Health Department for guidance concerning the quarantine of close contacts.

10. COVID-19 is unique as a communicable disease in that every person that eventually becomes infected with COVID-19 is able to transmit the disease to others for at least a 48 hour period before they become symptomatic, or otherwise have any reason to know that they can make other people sick; and, at least 20% (and in some populations as many as 40%) of all know positive cases will never become symptomatic, yet they are fully able to transmit the disease and make other people sick.

11. In Calhoun County, as of the date of this Order, over 4700, or 34% of all confirmed positive COVID-19 cases were first identified as a close contact of another probable or confirmed positive case, before they became positive themselves.

12. Since March 16, 2020, Calhoun County has experienced 11,650 laboratory confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. As of May 4, 2021, Calhoun County has a 7-day test positivity rate of 10.2%, and a 7-day new case per million count of 265. These statistics indicate both epidemic level contagion and significant community transmission.

13. Because a close contact is able to infect others with COVID-19 before they, or the Calhoun County Public Health Department, have a reasonable basis to believe that they harbor the specific infectious agent that causes COVID-19 certain procedures are required, including the quarantine of healthy persons who have been close contacts of probable or known positive COVID-19 cases.

14. These procedures, and restrictions on public gatherings of close contacts are necessary to maintain the public health of the citizens of Calhoun County, and control the COVID-19 epidemic.

Based on the preceding determinations IT IS ORDERED, by the authority provided in MCL

333.2453 (1):

- A. Any individual who resides, attends school or is employed within Calhoun County that is notified by the Calhoun County Public Health Department, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, a local school district, or an agent thereof, that they are a COVID-19 close contact, is ordered to quarantine for ten (10) days, or such other duration as may be required in a written public notice issued by the Calhoun County Public Health Department.
- B. Upon request, confirmed and probable cases, businesses, schools, and other facilities must provide the names and phone numbers of individuals with possible COVID-19 exposure to MDHHS and local health departments to aid in contact tracing and case investigation efforts.
- C. The quarantine must occur at the person's home, or at such other location, that will permit them to refrain from public contact or gatherings, whether indoors or outdoors.
- D. The quarantine shall occur in the manner recommended by the CDC Guidelines, at the time the contact occurred.

- E. This order does not apply to individuals who are fully vaccinated, as defined by the CDC Guidelines, or who have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days, have not developed new symptoms, and are currently asymptomatic.
- F. An employer, school, or other organization that requires or permits a close contact to act contrary to this Order is also in violation of this Order and subject to the penalties prescribed by the Michigan Public Health Code.
- G. A person or organization who violates an order of a local health officer is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 6 months or a fine of not more than \$200.00, or both; per MCL 333.2443.
- H. This Order may also be enforced pursuant to Part 24 of the Michigan Public Health Code, being MCL 333.2401 through MCL 333.2498.
- I. Administrative relief from this Order may be granted in appropriate circumstances. A person aggrieved of this Order must first notify the Calhoun County Corporation Counsel of all the reasons that this order should not apply to them. Within two-business day following said notice, the Calhoun County Health Officer or his designee will issue a written response affirming, revoking, or modifying this Order as it applies to that specific person. After this response, if that person is still aggrieved of the order, that person may seek judicial review under MCL 333.2462 (2).
- J. This order is effective immediately upon signature, and remains in effect until further Order of the Health Officer.

IT IS SO ORDERED



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Eric R. Pessell  
Administrative Health Officer  
Calhoun County Public Health Department

Date and Time Signed: 5/10/21@ 11:00am