



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER
COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE
MI.GOV/CORONAVIRUS

Below is an update on the 2019 Coronavirus outbreak as of 6:00 PM on 3/17/2020

UPDATE

- Since Monday, the state announced additional positive cases of COVID-19 throughout the state bringing the [total cases to 65](#).
- Yesterday, Governor Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-13, to temporarily lift regulatory requirements on hospitals and care facilities and help ensure an adequate number of health care providers available to patients during the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Under the executive order, the Michigan Departments of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) may take steps to ensure more people receive care.

“This is a crisis unlike any we’ve seen before, and we must do everything we can to ensure care for the most people,” said **Governor Whitmer**. “This executive order will help expand capacity so more people can access the care they need while we work to mitigate the spread of coronavirus. I will continue to work quickly with our partners in state government and with hospitals and care facilities to protect Michigan families.”

- Following through on her commitment to find solutions to support small businesses across Michigan impacted by COVID-19, Governor Gretchen Whitmer today formally requested the U.S. Small Business Administration to issue an Economic Injury Disaster declaration for the state.

“I understand that small businesses across our state are facing unprecedented challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said **Governor Whitmer**. “I requested this disaster declaration from SBA as a critical step to ensure every possible resource is made available to businesses, communities, entrepreneurs and others around the state.”

- Governor Whitmer applauded the Michigan Department of Education for sending a letter to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos asking her to grant a nationwide waiver of statewide student assessments.

“It’s time for Betsy DeVos to do the right thing on behalf of our students and waive statewide assessments,” said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. “When our kids get back to school, our number one priority must be ensuring they have the resources they need to get back on track.”



Governor Gretchen Whitmer ✓
@GovWhitmer



Today, [@MIEducation](#) sent a letter to Betsy Devos urging her to grant a nationwide waiver of statewide student assessments. When kids get back to school, the number one priority must be ensuring they have the resources they need, not on state assessments.
michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-1...

<https://twitter.com/GovWhitmer/status/1239976820172177408>

- Chief Medical Executive Dr. Khaldun gave an update for Michiganders on testing capacity for cases of COVID-19:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnoQ3AIVFA4&feature=youtu.be>

- Additionally the [governor, MDHHS and the CDC are urging people](#) to continue to take the following basic measures to prevent the spread of the virus:
 - If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19, call your health care provider. If you do not have a health care provider, call the nearest hospital.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
 - Avoid contact with people who are sick.
 - If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.
 - Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in a public setting.

HAPPENING ACROSS STATE GOVERNMENT

- The [Michigan Department of Education \(MDE\)](#) announced an online map to find locations where meals are being provided at no cost to children ages 0-18 during this period of school closure. The map can be found at: <https://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition/>, and will be updated twice each day during the closure period.

These meals available to all children at no cost. Up to two meals per day may be served to all children ages 0-18. This includes students with disabilities ages 18-26 with an active individual education program (IEP). This program assists Michigan's school districts and community partners to ensure that kids receive nutritious meals during the school closure announced by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on March 12, 2020.

- Yesterday, [Michigan Department of Corrections](#) was notified that two of its employees have tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). One is an employee at the Jackson County Probation Office, who had a recent history of international travel. The second is an employee at the Detroit Detention Center, who does not have a history of domestic or international travel.
- Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson announced that she is exploring options to ensure the May 5 elections do not put public health at risk. Currently, hundreds of jurisdictions are slated to participate in the May elections, which give residents the opportunity to vote on numerous local issues, including school district bonds and millages.

"I want to ensure Michiganders maintain their democratic right to vote without putting their health or the health of our clerks and election workers at risk," said Benson. "All options are on the table, including conducting the election by mail."

- Additionally, to reduce the potential for crowding in Michigan Secretary of State offices only critical services are being offered by appointment. Appointments can be made at Michigan.gov/SOS or by calling 888-SOS-MICH. The following services are available: ID and driver's license transactions that must be done in person, title services, and professional license services. Offices are not open on Saturdays but offering extended weekday hours.
- Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) [today announced](#) that MDHHS will close its lobbies to visits from the public, except for appointments, and will stop requiring residents to visit MDHHS offices in order to receive state assistance benefits during the COVID-19 outbreak. Nevertheless, MDHHS offices continue to serve the public and will conduct telephone interviews with all public assistance clients and applicants.
- In response the COVID-19, the [Unemployment Insurance Agency and Michigan Works! Agencies](#) are strongly urging workers to avoid visiting their statewide offices and utilize user-friendly online resources for unemployment assistance.



Michigan LEO @MichiganLEO · 15m

Unemployment Insurance Agency and @MichWorksAssn Agencies are strongly urging workers to avoid visiting their statewide offices and utilize user-friendly online resources for unemployment assistance. Apply for unemployment benefits at Michigan.gov/UIA or 1-866-500-0017.

Eligible employees should apply for **unemployment benefits** at

 **Michigan.gov/UIA**

 **866-500-0017**

UIA
Unemployment Insurance Agency

<https://twitter.com/MichiganLEO/status/1240042202086215681?s=20>

- The state of Michigan's small business entrepreneurial support organizations have joined forces with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to ensure economic support is available to Michigan businesses to overcome anticipated loss of revenue as a result of the COVID-19 virus, the organizations announced today.

Also, on March 16, Governor Whitmer informed the U.S. Small Business Administration that she is seeking an Economic Injury Disaster Loan Declaration for the state and has initiated the process to receive the declaration from SBA. That application process is expected to be completed this week.



MI Econ Dev Corp.  @MEDC · 5h ▼

The state of Michigan's small business entrepreneurial support organizations have teamed up with the MEDC to ensure economic support is available to Michigan businesses to overcome anticipated loss of revenue as a result of the COVID-19 virus.

Read more:



The screenshot shows a tweet from MEDC. On the left is the MEDC logo with the text 'MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'. To the right of the logo, the text reads: 'MEDC, state's small business support organizations join forces to develop resources for Michigan's...' followed by a link icon and the URL 'michiganbusiness.org'.

<https://twitter.com/MEDC/status/1239960482561372167?s=20>

- Starting tomorrow at 8:00 AM, [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#) will close numerous customer service centers and field offices statewide to general public traffic.
- In her continued effort to protect Michiganders, Attorney General Dana Nessel [issued a consumer alert](#) reminding Michigan residents to be aware of online coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) scams selling bogus products and providing false information on tests and treatments.

RESOURCES

- [CDC Situation Updates](#)
- [Michigan Updates](#)
- [Map of country-specific travel health information](#)
- [About COVID-19](#)
- COVID-19 Hotline 1-888-535-6136

MEDIA COVERAGE

- [The New York Times: Once Political B-Listers, Governors Lead Nation's Coronavirus Response](#)
- [The Detroit News: New Whitmer order to free up hospitals to add beds, medical personnel](#)
- [Politico: Trump lashes out at Dem governors amid coronavirus coordination](#)
- [Detroit Free Press: Trump attacks Whitmer on Twitter over coronavirus response](#)
- [WNEM: Whitmer signs executive order enhancing operational capacity, efficiency in hospitals](#)
- [WILX: Gov. Whitmer signs executive order enhances operational capacity and efficiency in hospitals](#)
- [MLIVE: Tuesday, March 17: Latest developments on coronavirus in Michigan](#)