Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP
Medical Director

Steve Hall, RS, MS
Health Officer

PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local News Media
From: Central Michigan District Health Department
RE: Local Health Departments Respond to Michigan Supreme Court Ruling on Governor's Emergency Powers
Release Date: October 5, 2020

Local Health Departments Respond to Michigan Supreme Court Ruling on Governor's Emergency Powers

In response to the Michigan Supreme Court ruling on October 2, 2020, regarding Governor Whitmer's State of Emergency declaration and subsequent executive orders, Steve Hall, Health Officer for Central Michigan District Health Department issued the following statement:

At this point, our understanding is that the Governor's Executive Orders are in effect for 21 days from the Supreme Court Ruling, although we know that she has requested clarification of this timeframe. The Governor has also stated that many of her orders may be re-issued under other authorities. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) also has several Epidemic Orders in place which are not affected by the ruling. There are also multiple guidance plans and documents in place that serve to continue to guide us including the Return to School Roadmap and the MISafeStart Plan, as well as the comprehensive reopening plans developed by multiple sectors of business. MDHHS has advised that they are working on their next steps which will take a little time. We believe the best scenario is to assess what future rules or orders may be issued statewide before we determine if any local orders will be necessary.

From a public health perspective, the safety precautions that are in place and all of the work that we have done together have helped us to mitigate the virus's impact in the central Michigan region. The reasons to continue masking, limiting gathering sizes, social distancing and screening of employees stretch far beyond Executive Orders. We want to remind everyone not to give up and to continue to work together to keep each other safe. We encourage all sectors of business to continue to follow the reopening plans you have developed.

We stand behind the important mitigation measures and safety precautions that are currently in place. They are working to reduce transmission of COVID-19. These measures include:

- Wear a face covering when you leave home, especially when you are inside public places
- Maintain a physical distance of 6 feet or more from others
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently
- Stay home if you are ill or have flu-like symptoms
- Avoid large gatherings, especially if you are at high risk for contracting the virus

We have worked hard to get this far together, and we encourage everyone to stay the course and continue to protect themselves and each other. We will continue to focus our public health efforts on testing, investigation, and contact tracing as well as promoting compliance with safety precautions and will share additional information as it becomes available.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org, LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

###

To request an interview, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the Media Interview Request Form.