

Muskegon County Resources

COVID-19 Preparedness

Information as of April 1st

Commonly asked Questions and Answers

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I have questions about the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” executive order that went into effect on March 24 at 12:01am. Where can I find the latest information?

To combat the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan, Governor Whitmer signed the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” executive order. For at least the next three weeks, all Michigan businesses and operations must temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. For those who have questions about the state's actions to mitigate the spread of coronavirus, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-535-6136 between 8am- 5pm daily or visit <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus> for a summary of the executive order.

I have questions about the virus COVID-19. Where can I find accurate information?

Muskegon County Health Department - Call 231-724-6246 or email PublicHealth.COVID-19@co.muskegon.mi.us if you have questions regarding COVID-19. You can also visit <https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/1611/Coronavirus> for on demand updates specific to Muskegon County.

Center for Disease Control - Call 800-232-4636 or visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov> for the most trusted, up-to-date information regarding the virus.

State of Michigan - Visit <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus> for local updates on restrictions and instructions from the state government, and subscribe to e-newsletter updates at the bottom of the webpage.

I need non healthcare related needs resources, like food, diapers or clothing. What community resources are available?

Call 2-1-1 or visit <https://www.mi211.org/> for information about resources closest to where you live. 24 hours a day 7 days a week, including non-healthcare related needs.

I have healthcare concerns, but am not sure who to contact. Who can I call?

If you have severe or life-threatening symptoms, please call 911. If you are experiencing symptoms and are unsure if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, review the CDC poster.

Spectrum Health - Spectrum is offering free virtual COVID-19 screenings 24/7 to people in the state of Michigan who are experiencing symptoms, call 833-559-0659 or visit <https://www.spectrumhealth.org/covid19>

Mercy Health - Mercy Health is offering virtual COVID-19 screenings 24/7 to patients who are experiencing symptoms through its MyChart Portal, call 833-247-1258 or visit <https://www.mercyhealth.com/health-and-wellness/coronavirus>

NOTE: most healthcare facilities are not taking appointments. Call if previously scheduled appointment

I am experiencing mental stress and don't have someone to talk to, what resources are available?

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) - Call 800-985-5990 (TTY 800-846-8517) to reach SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline or text TalkWithUs to 66746.

I'm a Veteran who has healthcare and/or benefit related concerns, but am not sure who to contact. Who can I call?

If you have severe or life-threatening symptoms, please call 911. If you are experiencing symptoms and are unsure if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, review the CDC poster.

Veteran Affairs - If you are a U.S. veteran with concerns regarding possibly having the Coronavirus, you can call 888-838-6446 to speak to a triage nurse regarding your symptoms. You can also visit <https://www.va.gov/find-locations> to find one of VA's more than 2,000 health care, counseling, benefits, and cemeteries facilities, plus VA's nationwide network of community health care providers.

If you are a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, you can connect with VA's caring, qualified responders for confidential help. Many of them are Veterans themselves.

- Call 800-273-8255 and press 1 (Call TTY if you have hearing loss 800-799-4889)
- Text 838255
- Start a confidential chat by visiting: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>

NOTE: most healthcare facilities are not taking appointments. Call if previously scheduled an appointment.

I can't afford food or healthcare and need financial assistance. What resources are available?

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) - Need food, healthcare, etc. assistance, apply for benefits through the MiBridges Portal at <https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/> or call 888-544-8773. Income requirements have been lifted at this time.

For specific COVID-19 Emergency Response from MDHHS:

- Call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136, seven days a week, 8am to 5pm.
- Email COVID19@michigan.gov 24/7. Emails will be answered seven days a week, 8am to 5pm.

How can I apply for unemployment?

Michigan Unemployment Office - The state of Michigan is opening up unemployment filing to self-employed workers, independent contractors, low-wage workers and those with a limited work history. Because of the high rate of applicants, they ask that you follow the below schedules for applying.

Online Filing Schedule - <https://www.michigan.gov/UIA>

- Last names beginning with letters A-L are asked to file claims on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
- Last names beginning with letters M-Z are asked to file claims on Sundays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays
- Saturdays will be available for anyone to accommodate those who could not file during their allotted window

Call Center Filing Schedule - 866-500-0017

- Last names beginning with letters A-L are asked to call on Mondays and Wednesdays between 8:00am – 5:00pm
- Last names beginning with letters M-Z are asked to call on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:00am – 5:00pm
- Fridays (8:00am – 5:00pm) will be available for anyone to accommodate those who could not file during their allotted window

I'm looking for low cost or free food meals. What options are available?

Food services are changing regularly, call ahead to double check hours.

Supper House 231-830-9408

Temple Methodist Church

2500 Jefferson St, Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

Daily from 4-5:25pm, boxed lunches

Christ the Rock Harvest Food Pantry 213-893-8900

6985 Indian Bay Rd. Montague, MI 49437

Wednesdays from 12:30-6pm

Muskegon Food Pantry 231-726-5341

1095 3rd St. Muskegon, MI 49441

Pre-packaged bag of groceries available at the door on Tuesday/Thursday from 9:30am-12pm. Diapers and baby wipes available upon request. The baby pantry is closed until further notice. 2-1-1 will continue to receive updated info.

For more locations, open hours and contact information go to Feeding America's website:

<https://www.feedwm.org/findfood/>.

For mobile food pantries, go to

<https://www.feedwm.org/mobile-pantry-schedule/?county=Muskegon> for the daily locations in Muskegon County.

I need to go to the grocery store, but I'm worried about exposure due to being high risk. What should I do?

SpartanNash stores (D&W Fresh Market, Family Fare) are setting aside time for store guests most at risk of contracting the virus, including older adults, pregnant women & immunocompromised individuals every Tuesday/Thursday from 7-9am. Store hours vary by location.

Walmart stores have implemented new open hours from 7-8:30pm unless the store normally opens later. There is an hour-long senior shopping event every Tuesday for customers aged 60 and older that will start one hour before the store opens. Store hours vary by location.

Meijer stores have implemented new open hours from 8am-10pm. Stores and pharmacies will provide dedicated shopping times for senior citizens and customers with chronic health conditions on Tues/Thurs from 7-8am. Essential service workers and Meijer Team Members can shop on Mons/Weds from 7-8am.

Target stores have expanded dedicated shopping time for its most vulnerable guests, making the first hour stores open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays available for those over 65 years old, pregnant women and those defined by the CDC as vulnerable or at-risk. To confirm local store opening times, visit [Target.com/store-locator](https://www.target.com/store-locator).

I have concerns about fake/scamming emails, phone calls and text messages with topics related to the COVID-19 crisis. Where can I get accurate information?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has received reports of scam and hoax text message campaigns and scam robocalls offering free home testing kits, promoting bogus cures, selling health insurance, and preying on virus-related fears. Read below for a few tips to help you protect yourself from scams:

- **Do not** click on links in texts related to the virus, and check [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for the most current information.
- **Be wary** of phone calls and text messages that claim to be from the World Health Organization (WHO), or charity organizations, asking for account information or money.
- Many consumers will receive checks as part of the federal government response to the coronavirus. **No one** will call or text you to verify your personal information or bank account details in order to "release" the funds.

For more information about scam calls and texts, visit the <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers> and the <https://www.fcc.gov/covid-scams>. You can also file a complaint about such scams at <https://www.fcc.gov/complaints>.

I'm having trouble paying my bills because my income has been affected. What can I do?

DTE customers impacted by COVID-19 are encouraged to call 800-477-4747 to determine eligibility for payment assistance or visit <https://bit.ly/2TQoK0V>.

Consumers Energy customers can call 800-477-5050 or visit <https://www.consumersenergy.com/company/media/news-and-information/emergency-response> to address billing needs. Individuals already in the Winter Protection Program have their end date extended to May 3, 2020. Those who meet low-income standards are encouraged to call if they have questions about eligibility.

Comcast/Xfinity customers who have been impacted by quarantines or closures and need more time to pay their bill for Xfinity TV, Internet, Home or home phone services can chat with a representative at <https://www.xfinity.com/chat/> or call 800-934-6489 to get your questions answered. New Internet Essentials customers will receive two free months of Internet service if they apply by April 30, 2020. Households with outstanding debt owed to Comcast may be

eligible for Internet Essentials. Comcast is waiving this qualification if you apply and are approved by 5/13/20. After 5/13/20, standard eligibility rules apply. Visit <https://www.internetessentials.com/covid19> or call 855-846-8376 to speak with a representative about your eligibility.

*Prepared by the Dwelling Place Community Building and Engagement Staff.
Information is subject to change Updated versions available on Fridays.
To limit the spread of COVID-19, please share this document digitally.
See content that is out of date or want to see an added resource?
Email jschaub@dwellingplacegr.org*