



# Kent County Resources

## COVID-19 Preparedness

Information as of June 18th (Subject to change)

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### Commonly asked Questions and Answers

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[I'm having trouble paying my bills because my income has been affected. What can I do?](#)

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## **I have questions about the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” executive order changes that went into effect on June 1. Where can I find the latest information?**

On June 1, Governor Whitmer announced that she has lifted the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” executive order. As a result, Michiganders are no longer required to stay home. As with the prior orders, Executive Order 2020-110 still requires that certain businesses remain closed and specific activities that present a heightened risk of infection will remain prohibited. Any work that is capable of being performed remotely must still be performed remotely. In contrast to previous orders, Executive Order 2020-110 allows retailers to resume operations on June 4. Restaurants and bars may reopen fully on June 8. Swimming pools and day camps for kids will also be permitted to reopen on June 8. These businesses and activities will be subject to safety guidelines to mitigate the risk of infection. Other businesses and activities that necessarily involve close contact and shared surfaces, including gyms, hair salons, indoor theaters, tattoo parlors, casinos, and similar establishments, will remain closed for the time being. Individuals who leave home are required to (1) wear face coverings in public enclosed spaces, unless medically unable to tolerate a face covering and (2) follow recommended social distancing practices, including staying 6 feet apart from individuals outside your household. For those who have questions about the state’s actions to mitigate the spread of coronavirus, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 between 8am-5pm daily or visit [https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499\\_90705-530620--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-530620--,00.html) for a summary of the executive order.

## **I have questions about the recommendation to wear a cloth face covering in public. Where can I find accurate information?**

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission. Read below for details to consider when wearing a mask to protect yourself and others. For a full summary of CDC recommendations, call 800-232-4636 or visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected. You can spread COVID-19 even if you don't feel sick.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

- Cloth face coverings should **NOT** be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

**UPDATE:** Per Governor Whitmer's Executive Order, effective April 26th, all medically-able individuals must wear non-medical grade face coverings in enclosed public spaces.

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

**Kent County Health Department** - Call 888-535-6136 or email [covid@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:covid@kentcountymi.gov) <https://www.accesskent.com/Health/coronavirus> for on demand updates specific to Kent County.

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

**State of Michigan** - Visit <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus> for local updates on restrictions and instructions from the state government, answers to frequently asked questions and subscribe to e-newsletter updates from MDHHS, the State Emergency Operations Center and Executive Office of the Governor.

## **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 health care 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.

Testing criteria for COVID-19 **has been expanded** in Michigan to include individuals with mild symptoms and essential workers still reporting to work in person, whether they have symptoms or not. Visit [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98189---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98189---,00.html) to find a testing center nearest you. Individuals who require assistance accessing this content are encouraged to contact the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136.

**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>. For additional Spectrum Care Support, call 616-391-8943. These services are free, no health insurance needed.

- Free phone screening for COVID-19
- Health Education on COVID-19
- Help locating needed resources

**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>.

**Cherry Health**- For COVID-19 screenings, call their COVID-19 Hotline at (616) 965-8347, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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

## **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.

Testing criteria for COVID-19 **has been expanded** in Michigan to include individuals with mild symptoms and essential workers still reporting to work in person, whether they have symptoms or not. Visit [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98189---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98189---,00.html) to find a testing center nearest you. Individuals who require assistance accessing this content are encouraged to contact the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136.

**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: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>

For emergency financial resources available to service members and veterans, visit <https://penfedfoundation.org/community-resources-for-veterans-and-service-members/>.

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

If you're feeling emotional distress due to the COVID-19 pandemic, help is available. There are many ways to connect with emotional-support services without the need to leave home. Visit [www.michigan.gov/staywell](http://www.michigan.gov/staywell) to find a comprehensive list of mental health resources.

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** - Call 1-800-273-8255 (TTY 800-799-4889) or visit <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/> to speak with a counselor. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

**Michigan Stay Well Counseling via the COVID-19 Hotline** - Call 1-888-535-6136 and press "8" to talk to a Michigan Stay Well counselor. Counselors available 24/7 - confidential and free.

**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.

**Certified Peer Support Specialist Warmline (MDHHS)** - Call 888-733-7753 seven days a week from 10am to 2am to speak with a certified peer support specialist. This warmline is intended to serve individuals living with persistent mental health challenges including anxiety, depression and trauma. Individuals in crisis, including those considering suicide, are urged to contact the Disaster Distress Helpline 24/7 at 800-985-5990 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7 at 800-273-8255.

**Michigan Crisis Text Line** - If you are experiencing emotional stress and anxiety but are more comfortable texting than talking, text the keyword RESTORE to 741741 - Available 24/7.

**Mental Health and Substance Abuse Help** - Network 180, Forest View Psychiatric Hospital and Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services are available 24/7 to help those struggling with mental health or substance use during the COVID-19 pandemic. Help begins by picking up the phone.

Network180: 616-336-3909

Forest View: 800-949-8439

Pine Rest: 800-678-5500 or 616-455-9200

## **I and/or someone I know feels unsafe with another member of their household. What resources are available right now?**

Safe Haven and YWCA are available by phone and video if in need of safety planning, counseling, support groups, legal assistance, etc. Additionally, if in need of shelter, contact them to see availability depending on risk factors.

Questions? Need help? Contact their 24/7 confidential hotlines:

**YWCA:** 616-454-9922 | **Safe Haven:** 616-452-6664

Or visit their websites: **YWCA:** [ywcawcmi.org](http://ywcawcmi.org) | **Safe Haven:** [safehavenministries.org](http://safehavenministries.org)

## **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](mailto:COVID19@michigan.gov) 24/7. Emails will be answered seven days a week, 8am to 5pm
- Subscribe to an e-newsletter for updates:  
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDHHS/subscriber/new>

**Economic Impact Payment (Stimulus Check)** - To check your status and eligibility, go to [www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments). If you manage an account for someone else (as a Representative Payee), individuals will start receiving checks sometime in May. For the latest information visit, [www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/2020/#5-2020-1](http://www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/2020/#5-2020-1).

### **Did you receive a card in the mail?**

Some taxpayers are receiving their Economic Impact Payment (Stimulus Check) by means of a prepaid debit card mailed in mid-late May. It will come in an envelope associated with Money Network. This is supported by the Treasury Department's Bureau of the Fiscal Service and is verified through the IRS. For more information, go to [www.eipcard.com](http://www.eipcard.com) or call 800-240-8100.

**SNAP Benefit Update-** Households receiving SNAP benefits, that are not currently receiving the maximum amount allowed per household will receive an additional amount to raise benefits to the max for May. These additional benefits will be issued between June 20th and June 30th. If you already receive the maximum benefits, you will not receive more. Check your account here, <https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/>.

## **I need my prescriptions, but I'm having trouble picking them up from my regular pharmacy. What delivery options do I have?**

**CVS Pharmacy** is offering free delivery of eligible prescriptions and everyday essentials. You can request delivery by calling the store, selecting your delivery options within the CVS Pharmacy app or through a link via an "order ready" text message. Visit [www.cvs.com/content/delivery](http://www.cvs.com/content/delivery) or call your local CVS pharmacy for additional details or to check your prescription's delivery eligibility. Find store locations and details by visiting [www.cvs.com/store-locator/landing](http://www.cvs.com/store-locator/landing).

**Walgreens Pharmacy** offers free delivery for eligible prescriptions. Not all prescriptions are eligible for delivery at this time. For more information about eligibility, talk to the pharmacy



directly. Visit [www.walgreens.com/topic/pharmacy/prescription-delivery.jsp](http://www.walgreens.com/topic/pharmacy/prescription-delivery.jsp) or call your local Walgreens for additional details. Find store locations and details by visiting [www.walgreens.com/storelocator/find.jsp](http://www.walgreens.com/storelocator/find.jsp).

**Meijer Pharmacy** - You may be eligible to have your prescriptions mailed to you. Contact your local Meijer pharmacy for more details. Find store locations and details by visiting [www.meijer.com/shop/store-finder](http://www.meijer.com/shop/store-finder).

## 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>

Customers are encouraged to use off-peak times 8pm-8am.

- 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 8am-6pm.
- Last names beginning with letters M-Z are asked to call on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8am-6pm.
- Fridays between 8am-6pm and Saturdays between 7am-2pm are open for anyone who could not file during their allotted days.

## I and/or my family does not qualify for the CARES Act or other government assistance due to citizenship status. What financial resources can help?

**La Lucha Fund** - For undocumented and mixed status families this fund was established to provide financial resources to those families who are not eligible for unemployment, CARES Act Relief and other governmental support. They will allow families to pay for basic needs such as rent, groceries, cleaning supplies and medicine. If applicable, please contact:

Erika VanDyke  
616-648-6079  
[latinxgr@gmail.com](mailto:latinxgr@gmail.com)

## 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.*

**MelTrotter** 616-454-8249

225 Commerce Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Meals: Breakfast at 7am. Dinner at 7:15pm.

**Dégagé Ministries** 616-454-1661

144 Division Ave S, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Free to-go meals from 8:30-9:30am and 5-6pm around the corner (139 Sheldon) 7 days a week.

**God's Kitchen** 616-224-0217

303 Division Ave S, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Meals: Monday-Saturday: 12:30pm to 2:00pm. Sunday: 2:30-4pm \*Meals are grab and go at the back door, dining area closed\*

**Heartside Gleaning Initiative**

Free Produce Giveaways happen every Saturday at La Grave Church (107 La Grave Ave, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503) from 2:45-3:45pm.

**USDA Free Fresh Produce**

Every Thursday through June 25th, USDA will be passing out 20 lbs of free fresh produce at 6pm at the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center (409 Lafayette Ave SE, GR, MI 49503). You can drive or walk through the parking lot to receive the boxes. No registration needed to receive boxes.

**Community Food Club**

The Community Food Club (1100 South Division Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49507) is looking to accept new members. You pay a membership fee (between \$11 and \$15 for a 30 day membership and shop using points based on household size. At this time, no proof of income needed. Go to <https://communityfoodclubgr.org/> for more information.

## **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. Stores 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-Midnight (but select stores close at 11pm). Check online to find your local store: <https://www.meijer.com/shop/en/store-finder>. Stores and pharmacies will provide dedicated shopping times for senior citizens and



customers with chronic health conditions on Tues/Thurs from 6-8am. Essential service workers and Meijer Team Members can shop on Mons/Weds from 6-8am.

**Target** stores have expanded dedicated shopping time for its most vulnerable guests, making the first store hour 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'm looking for low cost or free food options for kids. What options are available?**

Go to <https://www.grps.org/> for a list of the food distribution sites for kids 18 and younger (the youth doesn't have to be a GRPS student). These locations will be available Mondays and Thursdays ONLY from 11:30am to 12:30pm starting 4/7/2020. Below are the locations.

**City High Middle School** (1720 Plainfield Ave NE, Grand Rapids, 49505)

**Ottawa Hills High School** (2055 Rosewood SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506)

**San Juan Diego Academy** (1650 Godfrey Ave SW, Wyoming, MI 49509)

**Sibley Elementary** (943 Sibley St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504)

For more information from GRPS on assistance and additional food sites, visit <https://www.grps.org/coronavirus>.

## **I'm looking for low cost or free food that I can cook at home. What food pantry options are available?**

**Double Up Food Bucks Alert:** In response to COVID-19 many locations that accept bridge cards are getting rid of the \$20/day limit. This means you can get even more healthy food using Double Up when you buy fruits and veggies with your Bridge Card. Find all Double Up Food Bucks Updates by visiting <https://www.doubleupfoodbucks.org/resources/covid-19/>.

**Family Network of Wyoming** 616-885-9919

1029 44th St SW Wyoming MI 49509

<https://fntw.org/services/food-pantry/>

Mondays 2:30-5pm & Wednesday 1:30-4:30pm. Prepares boxes to give out.

**WestMinster Food Pantry** 616-456-1456

47 Jefferson Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Thursday 10:30-2:30pm, grab and go meals to previous clients only.

**Other Way Ministries** 616-454-4011

839 Sibley St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Food pantry hours: Monday-Friday 9am-3pm, Tuesdays until 6pm

The food pantry is now call-in only! Call ahead or upon arrival during the times listed above. All that is required is self-declared need. No documents necessary. Delivery service is available to

those who need it. To see items in stock:

<https://theotherway.org/covid-19-resources-recursos/>.

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

[www.feedwm.org/findfood/](http://www.feedwm.org/findfood/).

For mobile food pantries, go to [www.feedwm.org/mobile-pantry-schedule/?county=Kent](http://www.feedwm.org/mobile-pantry-schedule/?county=Kent) for the daily locations in Kent County.

For another full list of free food pantry options in Kent County, refer to

[www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/kent\\_county\\_food\\_banks.html](http://www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/kent_county_food_banks.html) to locate ones near you.

## **I need to pick-up food from the grocery store, food pantry, school grab and go site, etc. near me, but I don't have access to transportation. What options do I have?**

**Health Net of West Michigan** is providing transportation coordination to pick up food at any food site in Kent County. Health Net will arrange transportation through one of their vendors to take clients to and from the site they are picking up food. The site can be any place that the client obtains food (food pantry, mobile site, school grab and go site, grocery store, food club, etc.). The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Client resides in Kent County
- Food site is in Kent County
- Client passes COVID-19 phone screening provided by Health Net Intake staff

Call 616-632-1015 to assess your eligibility and get transportation scheduled.

## **I and/or someone I know has a teen/young adult in their household looking for summer employment. What opportunities are available?**

**GRow 1000** is a summer employment program for youth between the ages of 15-21 years-old and is looking to provide young people with summer employment opportunities that will enhance their job readiness skills. The Program will match youth to employment fields such as local government, healthcare providers, manufacturers, education, business and more! Participants will receive paid training and earn \$10.00/hr. for 20 hours each week. The program is for 6 weeks from July 13, 2020 through August 21, 2020. Any questions? Contact Shannon Harris, Program Coordinator at [sharris@grcity.us](mailto:sharris@grcity.us) or 616-816-9858. Apply HERE.

## **I am a senior looking for assistance. What assistance is there?**

**Kent County Senior Assistance** 616-456-5664

Area Ageing of Western Michigan and partners are providing seniors with support through wellness checks and delivering of essential items. If interested in learning more and connecting with resources, call 616-456-5664.

**Meals on Wheels** 616-459-3111

Food Pantry Services for individuals 60 and older

1954 Fuller NE, Suite B Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Mondays 8:30am-3:30pm, Wednesdays 8:30am-3:30pm, and Thursdays 9:30-4pm. Contact them online <https://mealsonwheelswesternmichigan.org/meals-on-wheels/food-pantries/>.

**Meal Delivery for 60+**

If you are 60+ you may qualify for home delivered meals through your local area agency on aging. If you are eligible after you sign up, your regional agency or volunteer will contact you to have meals delivered. Meals can be fresh, frozen or shelf stable (non-perishable). Apply through: <https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/s/request-meal-delivery-reassurance>.

**I need to use the bus, but don't know what options are available?**

**May Mobility** the downtown (autonomous shuttle) is suspending service until further notice.

**DASH west & DASH north** runs every 8 minutes from Monday through Saturday: Monday - Friday: 6:30am - 10pm; Saturday: 10am - 10pm; No service on Sunday

**The Rapid** has reduced service (indicated below). Find full summer schedule details below:

The following routes will run every 15 minutes from 6am to 6pm, and every 30 minutes from 6pm to 10pm on the weekdays:

Route 1 (Division)	Route 2 (Kalamazoo)	Route 4 (Eastern)
Route 9 (Alpine)	Route 28 (28th Street)	Silver Line

The following routes will run every 30 minutes from 6am to 6pm, and every 60 minutes from 6pm to 10pm during the weekdays:

Route 5 (Wealthy)	Route 11 (Plainfield)
Route 6 (Eastown/Woodland)	Route 15 (East Leonard)
Route 7 (West Leonard)	Route 16 (Wyoming/Metro Health)
Route 8 (Grandville/Rivertown Crossings)	Route 17 (Woodland/Airport)
Route 10 (Clyde Park)	Route 44 (44th Street)

The following routes will run every 60 minutes from 6am to 10pm during the weekdays:

Route 3 (Madison)	Route 13 (Michigan/Fuller)	Route 18 (Westside)
Route 12 (West Fulton)	Route 14 (East Fulton)	Route 24 (Burton)

Route 50 - GVSU Connector will run every 42 minutes from 7am to 7pm, Monday through Friday

All routes (**except** Route 19 - Michigan Crosstown) will return to their pre-COVID-19 weekend schedules

**I have safety concerns about crime, can I call the police?**

Police are still responding but if you need to call 911, advise the operator if you or anyone in your home has symptoms or is quarantined. If able, meet officers outside of home and maintain a recommended 6ft. distance.

**Local safety alerts** - Sign up for the citywide Nixle Alerts by texting GrandRapids to 888-777 or for more local texts, text your zip code to 888-777. You can also go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) to sign up and customize your user profile based on the type, times and ways you want to receive the alerts – text, email, online and social media.

## **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](http://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 [www.fcc.gov/consumers](http://www.fcc.gov/consumers) and the [www.fcc.gov/covid-scams](http://www.fcc.gov/covid-scams). You can also file a complaint about such scams at [www.fcc.gov/complaints](http://www.fcc.gov/complaints).

**UPDATE:** Beware of scammers spoofing the Kent County Health Department's main number 616-632-7100, calling residents to offer medication while asking for Medicaid and Medicare numbers for billing purposes. Anyone who receives a phone call they suspect to be a scam is advised to hang up.

**2-1-1's FraudSupport Program** - 2-1-1 in West Michigan has partnered with the Cybercrime Support Network to make sure that victims of cybercrime have the resources they need while guiding them through the process of reporting, recovering, and reinforcing their security. Contact 211 for assistance and to answer questions.

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

**Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW)** - DTE and SEMCo Energy Customers: THAW wants to make it easier for Michigan residents to get the help they need to afford their utility bill. Individuals will need to complete and be approved for State Emergency Relief (SER) as well as complete the Affordable Payment Plan application from THAW. For program details, visit [https://thawfund.org/assistance\\_programs/affordable-payment-plans-dte-lsp-semco-map-cons](https://thawfund.org/assistance_programs/affordable-payment-plans-dte-lsp-semco-map-cons)

[umers-energy-care-uppco-ease/](#). If you have further questions or require assistance, please call THAW's Utility Assistance Center 8:30am-5pm M-F at 800-866-8429, and a specialist will be able to assist you.

**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 who need help paying their energy bills are encouraged to call 800-477-5050 to discuss their assistance options. Shutoffs for non-payment for low-income and senior customers have been suspended through 6/12. Visit [www.consumersenergy.com/company/media/news-and-information/emergency-response](http://www.consumersenergy.com/company/media/news-and-information/emergency-response) for the most accurate information.

**Comcast/Xfinity** - <https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19>

Customer Service: 800-934-6489

*Information valid through June 30, 2020. Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Will not terminate any services
- Late fees incurred due to COVID-19 hardships waived
- Unlimited data provided to customers during this time
- Wi-Fi hotspots open to anyone in the public who needs it

**Internet Essentials** - [www.internetessentials.com/covid19](http://www.internetessentials.com/covid19)

Customer Service: 855-846-8376

- Provides reduced price plans to qualifying households
- New customers: Two free months of internet service if you apply by 6/30/20

**Spectrum** - [www.spectrum.net/support/covid-19-community-assistance/](http://www.spectrum.net/support/covid-19-community-assistance/)

Customer Service: 833-267-6094

*Information valid through June 30, 2020. Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Will not terminate any services
- Late fees incurred due to COVID-19 hardships waived
- New customers: Qualifying households with students or teachers get 60 days of free access. Free installation options are available. Call 844-579-3743 to enroll.

**Assurance Wireless** - [www.assurancewireless.com/](http://www.assurancewireless.com/)

Customer Service: 888-321-5880

*Information valid through June 30, 2020. Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- This carrier provides free and reduced price plans and phones to qualifying individuals.
- Unlimited calling and text for all customers
- An additional 20GB of data for all customers

**AT&T** - <https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html>

Customer Service: 800-288-2020

*Information valid through June 30, 2020. Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Will not terminate any services for 60 days
- Late fees incurred due to COVID-19 hardships waived
- Overcharge charges for data waived due to COVID-19 hardships
- Wi-Fi hotspots open to anyone in the public who needs it
- Waiver requests can be submitted if unable to pay bill during COVID-19
- Unlimited data provided to customers during this time

**CellCom** - [www.celcom.com.my/personal/covid-19-support](http://www.celcom.com.my/personal/covid-19-support)

Customer Service: 800-236-0055

*Information valid until further notice. Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Offering 1GB of free data to customers
- Free browsing for medical advice and updates
- Free crisis calls
- Unlimited access to Microsoft 360

**Cricket Wireless** - [www.cricketwireless.com/support/fraud-and-safety/covid-19.html](http://www.cricketwireless.com/support/fraud-and-safety/covid-19.html)

Customer Service: 800-274-2538

*Information valid until further notice. Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Plans starting as low as \$30/mo
- BridgePay to split bill into multiple payments
- Providing distance-learning resources

**Metro by T-Mobile** - [www.metrobyt-mobile.com/ongoing-updates-covid-19](http://www.metrobyt-mobile.com/ongoing-updates-covid-19)

Customer Service: 888-863-8768

*Information valid through June 30, 2020. Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Plans starting as low as \$30/mo
- 10GB of Smartphone Mobile HotSpot each month for the next two months

**SafeLink Wireless** -

<https://media.tracfone.com/wps/wcm/connect/phones/safelink/covid>

Customer Service - 1-800-378-1684

- This carrier provides free and reduced price plans and phones to qualifying individuals.
- Unlimited calling and text for all customers
- An additional 5GB of data provided to all customers

**Sprint** - [www.sprint.com/en/landings/covid-19.html](http://www.sprint.com/en/landings/covid-19.html)

Customer Service: 888-211-4727

*Information valid through June 30, 2020. Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Unlimited data for 60 days
- 20GB of free hotspot to customers with hotspot capabilities
- Waiving per-minute charges for international calls



**T-Mobile** - [www.t-mobile.com/brand/ongoing-updates-covid-19](http://www.t-mobile.com/brand/ongoing-updates-covid-19)

Customer Service: 800-937-8997

*Information valid through June 30, 2020. Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Call to make payment arrangements due to COVID-19 hardships
- Unlimited data for 60 days to customers with plans including data
- Lifeline partners will receive 5GB of data
- Free international calling

**Tracfone** - [www.tracfone.com/covid/](http://www.tracfone.com/covid/)

Customer Service: 800-867-7183

- Customers on Snap or Medicaid may qualify for payment assistance

**US Cellular** - [www.uscellular.com/covid-19](http://www.uscellular.com/covid-19)

Customer Service: 888-944-9400

*Information valid through July 31, 2020. Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Data overage charges waived
- Limited data plans will remain on high-speeds once limit has been reached
- For customers with unlimited plans, 15GB of hotspot data will be offered

**Verizon** - [www.verizonwireless.com/support/covid-19-faqs/](http://www.verizonwireless.com/support/covid-19-faqs/)

Customer Service: 800-837-4966

*Information valid through June 30, 2020. Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Late payment fees will be waived due to COVID-19 hardships (note: an online form must be submitted)
- Services will not be terminated if payments cannot be made (note: an online form must be submitted)
- Activation and upgrade fees will be waived
- Free international calling
- For customers with limited talk, overage charges will be waived

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*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 [community@dwellingplacegr.org](mailto:community@dwellingplacegr.org)*

