



# Oceana County Resources

## COVID-19 Preparedness

Information as of September 17th (Subject to change)

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### Commonly asked Questions and Answers

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### **I have questions about the Executive Order changes that went into effect on July 17th, 2020. Where can I find the latest information?**

On Friday July 17, Governor Whitmer rescinded Executive 2020-147, issuing revised face covering requirements in Executive Order 2020-153. As with the original order, individuals are required to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in an indoor public space, outdoors when 6-ft distance can not be kept, and when waiting for or riding public

transportation. Exceptions to the order, such as medical intolerances, are outlined in the executive order. Michigan businesses are required to deny service to customers not wearing a face covering. A violation of the order is a misdemeanor subject to a \$500 criminal penalty. In addition, Executive Order No. 2020-153, clarifies that businesses may not assume that an unmasked customer cannot medically tolerate a face covering, though they may accept a customer's verbal representation to that effect. The order also clarifies that wearing a mask at a polling place for the purpose of voting in an election is not required, though wearing a mask to protect yourself and others is strongly encouraged. Additionally, the Order explicitly requires public safety officers to wear a face covering unless doing so would seriously interfere with the performance of their responsibilities. 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\\_90705-535105--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-535105--,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 over your nose and mouth 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, all medically-able individuals must wear a non-medical grade face covering when in enclosed public spaces, unable to abide by social distancing requirements in outdoor public spaces, and when waiting for or riding public transportation.

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

**District Health Department #10** - Call the state hotline 888-535-6136 or email [info@dhd10.org](mailto:info@dhd10.org) if you have questions regarding COVID-19. You can also visit <https://www.dhd10.org/coronavirus/> for on demand updates specific to Oceana 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 workers still reporting to work in person, whether they have symptoms or not. Visit [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-99891\\_99912---.00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-99891_99912---.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>.

**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 have started resuming normal health care services. Call your doctor to determine the best path forward for your health and wellbeing.

### **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.

## **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 workers still reporting to work in person, whether they have symptoms or not. Visit [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-99891\\_99912---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-99891_99912---,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 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.
- 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 continue to receive an additional amount to raise benefits to the max for September. These additional benefits will be issued between September 20th and september 30th as a separate payment from the assistance that is provided earlier in the month. 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'm looking for low cost or free food meals. What options are available?

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

**True North Community Services** 231-924-0641

6308 S Warner Ave, Fremont, MI 49412

Food pantry open weekdays from 8:30am-4:30pm

Prepackaged boxes of food will be delivered curbside to vehicles at the food pantry exit door (north side of the building). The mobile food truck schedule will not change, but will run as a drive-thru for pre-assembled boxes of food items. If you have any questions call 231-924-0641 or email [info@truenorthservices.org](mailto:info@truenorthservices.org).



**Hesperia Community Food Pantry at Hesperia United Methodist Church** 231-854-0075  
187 E South Ave, Hesperia, MI 49421  
Effective Monday 3/16/20 the food pantry will take calls for emergency food, please call 231-854-0075 between 1-3pm Monday thru Thursday.

**Countryside Church of Christ** 231-854-0919  
8063 E. Loop Road, Hesperia, MI 49421  
Food pantry times: Sundays 12:15-1pm; Tuesdays 1-2:30pm and 7-7:30pm.

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=Oceana](http://www.feedwm.org/mobile-pantry-schedule/?county=Oceana) for the daily locations in Oceana County.

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

**Hesperia Public Schools** will not be continuing with food distribution to students during the new school year, at this time. For the latest information, visit the district's website <https://www.hesp.net/about-us/health/>.

#### **Pandemic EBT Program**

All students of the Hesperia Public Schools system regardless of income should have received additional financial support for food purchasing through a government program called the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program. For more information, visit [https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_99536---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_99536---,00.html).

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

**2-1-1's FraudSupport Program** - 2-1-1 in West Michigan 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?**

### **emPower Heat & Energy Assistance Program (Heat & Energy)**

The following low-income home energy assistance programs are available in your county:

- Consumers Energy's Consumers Affordable Resource for Energy (CARE)
- DTE Energy's Low Income Self-Sufficiency Plan (LSP)
- emPower's one-time heat and energy assistance program

You can apply for emPower's assistance program here: <http://tnempower.org/apply/>. If you cannot access the application or have other questions, call 231-355-5880 for assistance. Visit emPower's website: <https://tnempower.org/> for the most accurate information.

**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-consumers-energy-care-uppco-ease/](https://thawfund.org/assistance_programs/affordable-payment-plans-dte-lsp-semco-map-consumers-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 of shutoff protection. For the most accurate information, visit <https://newlook.dteenergy.com/wps/wcm/connect/dte-web/quicklinks/footer/covid19-residential>.

**Consumers Energy** customers who need help paying their energy bills are encouraged to call 800-477-5050 to discuss their assistance options. For the most accurate information, visit [www.consumersenergy.com/company/media/news-and-information/emergency-response](http://www.consumersenergy.com/company/media/news-and-information/emergency-response).

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

Customer Service: 800-934-6489

*Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Flexible and extended payment options
- Support for university students
- 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 12/30/20

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

Customer Service: 833-267-6094

*Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Offering Spectrum Internet Assist to eligible low-income customers
- No data caps or hidden fees
- WiFi hotspots open for public use

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

Customer Service: 888-321-5880

*Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- This carrier provides free and reduced price plans and phones to qualifying individuals
- Individuals affected by COVID-19 who lost employment may qualify for LifeLine service
- 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

*Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Waiver requests can be submitted if unable to pay bill during COVID-19

**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

*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

*Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Plans starting as low as \$30/mo
- Most plans include unlimited talk, text, and data

**SafeLink Wireless** - <https://media.tracfone.com/wps/wcm/connect/phones/safelink/covid>

Customer Service - 800-378-1684

- This carrier provides free and reduced price plans and phones to qualifying individuals
- Individuals affected by COVID-19 who lost employment may qualify for LifeLine service
- 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

*Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Call to make payment arrangements due to COVID-19 hardships

**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

*Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Call to make payment arrangements due to COVID-19 hardships
- If relief you've obtained is ending, contact again if you need additional options

**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

*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: 800-922-0204

*Check the website for the most accurate information.*

- Offers payment arrangements to help you pay your bill
- Customers who contacted Verizon by June 30, have been enrolled in a payment plan (review billing statement for additional information)

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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)

