

DELTA COUNTY OF MICHIGAN PRESS RELEASE

Friday, March 13, 2020

Dear Community Members of Delta County:

The situation involving COVID-19 continues to evolve in a rapid manner. Local school districts, leaders from local government, health department representatives and other partners continue to monitor and assess our local response to COVID-19 and are working to provide resources on guidance and policy to mitigate the spread of coronavirus. Local officials are taking COVID-19 very seriously and hope that with the help of our great community we can mitigate the spread of this virus in our area.

Governor Whitmer has declared a state of emergency for Michigan. On Thursday March 12, 2020, she ordered the closure of all K-12 school buildings, including all public, private, and boarding. This closure is in place starting Monday, March 16, 2020 until Sunday, April 5, 2020. School buildings are scheduled to reopen on Monday, April 6, 2020. Today the Governor has issued an executive order (2020-5) to cancel all events over 250 people and all assemblages in shared spaces over 250 people. This takes effect today, March 13 at 5pm and ends on Sunday April 5, 2020 at 5pm. As of last night, the number of presumptive positive cases of COVID 19 in Michigan are 12.

Due to the increase in cases in Michigan, community mitigation strategies are crucial to slowing the transmission of COVID-19. The basic personal-hygiene measures to prevent the spread of the virus are as follows:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- Avoid handshakes;
- Avoid contact with people who are sick;
- Stay home when you are sick.

Symptoms of COVID-19 to be aware of may include:

- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Fever
- Cough

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has issued Interim Recommendations for COVID-19 Community Mitigation Strategies and the most up-to-date guidance on these and other mitigation strategies, which are available at www.Michigan.gov/coronavirus. A part of those strategies includes:

- the cancelation or postponement of large gatherings of greater than 100 people in a shared space;
- limiting community contact when possible by utilizing online or telephonic options to conduct business;
- follow all restrictions and guidelines of local hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities;
- be cautious of supplies and community availability.

Government facilities will remain open at this time; however, we urge the public to follow county and city websites for up to date information as to hours of operation or any restrictions that may be put into place. If local business can be conducted via the internet or by telephone we urge the public to do so. It is important for everyone to understand that this is done in an attempt to limit the spread of COVID-19. Many local entities and organizations are taking

steps, based on guidance provided by local, state, and federal partners, to limit their exposure to COVID-19 and the spread to vulnerable populations.

As we prepare for all possible scenarios, we ask that you develop a plan for your family and that you heed the precautions recommended by health professionals and the www.Michigan.gov/coronavirus website. We urge the public to please utilize this website for the most up to date and accurate information regarding COVID-19 and the steps necessary to mitigate exposure and the spread within the community. While social media can be a helpful tool in relaying information, please be cautious of the source of such information. Local officials want the public to be educated and prepared, not panicked, and to help each other, especially vulnerable populations. We are working through this as a community and need to stay as united and supportive as possible to ensure the health and well-being of all community members.