



Pittsfield Charter Township

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Office of the Supervisor

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The pandemic our community, state, nation, and world faces has placed us in positions unthinkable a mere week or so ago! Let us take the time to process the magnitude of what each of us is dealing with - individually, as families, and as communities. I write to ensure that as our current reality settles in and shifts from being surreal to real, that we are kind to ourselves and everyone around us. Each of us will process and deal with our social isolation, economic consequences, health anxieties, and other fallouts in individual ways depending on socio-cultural, economic, and demographic factors.

Let's be understanding of those differences and be kind and caring to everyone in our family and community. Most importantly, let us be patient and do whatever it takes to practice physical distancing to protect the well-being of ourselves, our families, and community.

It was just about 10 days ago that the State of Michigan reported its first cases of Covid-19 and I called an emergency meeting of Department Heads to outline an emergency response protocol for the continued provision of public services at a time when we may not engage normally with each other but want to ensure continued access to services by you. What, of course, none of us knew that morning of March 11th was that in a matter of 4 days we'd transition from meeting in person and going about our daily work to a situation of practicing 6' physical distancing, many working remotely, teleconferencing for group meetings, setting up decontamination centers, and deploying PPE (personal protective equipment) for emergency personnel. We were able to do all this, and more, because of our outstanding team dedicated to "Setting the Gold Standard of Public Service."

With a priority to support our emergency personnel and provide them with the tools and resources they need to be there for you when needed and to maintain the safety of our community, please know that each of us from the Pittsfield Township team continue to be available to you even though you may not see us physically, as we are all accustomed to.

The work we have done for you, over the past decade, particularly to provide for multimodal pathways, sidewalks, bike lanes and pedestrian crossings along with provision of such amenities as grocery stores, parks, restaurants, and pharmacies close to where you live will hopefully help you cope well with constraints placed on our daily lives because of the pandemic. Now more than ever, your access to these parks, paved greenways/sidewalks, and daily amenities will hopefully help maintain not just physical/mental well-being but a semblance of normalcy in our community.

It is safe to assume that many situations that we cannot perceive at this time will arise. Please know that if we, the Pittsfield Township team, can help you deal with these, don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are compiling relevant information and reaching out regularly. To stay attuned, please sign up for the Notify Me feature on the township website and/or go to: pittsfield-mi.gov/covid19

Please remember to be patient with and kind to each other. We have the resources we need, within ourselves and our community, to handle this pandemic and emerge even stronger as a community.

Mandy Grewal, Ph.D.
Supervisor
