

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

The Washtenaw County Local Health Officer issues this Order pursuant to the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL 333.2453 as it has been determined that it is necessary to protect the public health from further spread of COVID-19 within Washtenaw County.

In response to the ongoing public health emergency and the risk posed by a resurgence of COVID-19, matters concerning the public health of the residents of Washtenaw County have been brought to the attention of the Washtenaw County Health Officer. The Local Health Officer has determined that controls are necessary to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and to protect the public's health in Washtenaw County based on the following facts:

- A communicable disease, novel Coronavirus, which causes COVID-19 has been identified and can be transmitted from person to person.
- In order to control and limit the spread of the novel Coronavirus, it is necessary to prevent infected people from coming into contact with people not infected.
- The spread of COVID-19 can be reduced with cloth face coverings, social distancing, and staying home when sick.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that individuals stay at least 6 feet from others who are not in the same household. Risk of COVID-19 transmission at a gathering or event increases as the size of the event or gathering increases.

It is hereby ordered that:

1. **Gatherings and events.** Social gatherings and organized events among persons not part of the same household are permitted only to the extent provided in this order. In all cases, organizers and venues must ensure that the gathering or event complies with this order, and that persons not part of the same household maintain six feet of distance from one another, including by designing the gathering or event to encourage and maintain social distancing. This section does not apply to an incidental gathering of persons in a shared space, including an airport, bus station, factory floor, restaurant, shopping mall, public pool, or workplace (although it does apply to social gatherings and organized events held in such places).
 - a. An indoor social gathering or indoor organized event of 10 people or fewer is permitted in residential settings.
 - b. An indoor social gathering or indoor organized event of more than 10 and fewer than 500 people occurring at a non-residential venue is permitted outside the City of Ann Arbor and City of Ypsilanti only to the extent that the organizers and venue:
 1. In cases where the gathering or event occurs in a venue with fixed seating, limit attendance to 20% of seating capacity;
 2. Otherwise, limit attendance to 20 people per 1,000 square feet of venue space, including no more than 20 people per 1,000 square feet in each room;
 3. Consistent with Washtenaw County's Facial Coverings Emergency order, require individuals at the venue to wear a facial covering.
 - c. An outdoor social gathering or outdoor organized event of more than 100 and fewer than 1,000 people occurring at a non-residential venue is permitted outside the City of Ann Arbor and City of Ypsilanti only to the extent that the organizers and venue:

1. In cases where the gathering or event occurs in a venue with fixed seating, limit attendance to 30% of seating capacity;
 2. Otherwise, limit attendance to 30 people per 1,000 square feet of event space, including no more than 30 people per 1,000 square feet in any distinct area within the event space.
 - d. **Within the City of Ann Arbor and the City of Ypsilanti** gatherings and events among persons not part of the same household must comply with the following requirements:
 1. An indoor social gathering or organized event at a residential setting must be no more than 10 people;
 2. An outdoor social gathering or organized event at a residential setting must be no more than **25** people.
 - e. Notwithstanding the further limitation on gathering and event size, gatherings and events subject to this local order must continue to comply with all other provisions of local emergency orders.
 - f. Organizers must ensure that persons not part of the same household maintain six feet of distance from one another, including by designing the gathering or event to encourage and maintain social distancing.
 - g. Organizers must ensure that persons comply with provisions of the local face covering emergency order.
 - h. Any individual, group or entity organizing or hosting an outdoor gathering or organized event is strongly encouraged to make and keep a record of all attendees for 21 days thereafter. If confirmed COVID-19 cases become associated with the gathering or event, the record will greatly facilitate case investigations by the Washtenaw County Health Department.
2. **Exceptions.** Indoor gathering and event limitations imposed by this order do not apply to any of the following:
 - a. Aspects of training of law enforcement, correctional, medical, or first responder personnel not capable of being performed remotely;
 - b. Polling places.
 3. **Religious worship.** Consistent with prior guidance, neither a place of religious worship nor its owner is subject to penalty under this order for allowing religious worship at such a place. No individual is subject to penalty of this order for engaging in religious worship at a place of religious worship.
 4. Nothing in this order supersedes any other Washtenaw County emergency order. Emergency orders that further restrict gathering or event size beyond the limitations set forth in this order shall prevail where in direct conflict with this order.

Such measures will be enforced, and any violations are subject to citation and penalties as outlined in the Michigan Public Health Code.

This order takes effect immediately and will remain in effect until it is determined by the Washtenaw County Health Officer that the threat to the public's health and lives is no longer present.

This order may be revised as well as supplemented with specific procedures and orders in accordance with the Michigan Public Health Code.

Date: October 5, 2020



Jimena Loveluck, MSW
Health Officer