

## **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update:**

March 16, 2020 at 4:00PM: No cases of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) have been confirmed in Berrien County at this time. There are now fifty-three (53) cases of [COVID-19 in Michigan](#). There are currently twenty-four (24) cases in the State of Indiana and there has been one (1) death in Indiana.

Earlier this morning, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed [Executive Order 2020-9](#). Beginning today at 3:00 pm, and continuing until March 30, 2020 at 11:59 pm, the following places of public accommodation are closed to ingress, egress, use, and occupancy by members of the public:

- (a) Restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffeehouses, and other places of public accommodation offering food or beverage for on-premises consumption;
- (b) Bars, taverns, brew pubs, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, special licensees, clubs, and other places of public accommodation offering alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption;
- (c) Hookah bars, cigar bars, and vaping lounges offering their products for on premises consumption;
- (d) Theaters, cinemas, and indoor and outdoor performance venues;
- (e) Libraries and museums;
- (f) Gymnasiums, fitness centers, recreation centers, indoor sports facilities, indoor exercise facilities, exercise studios, and spas;
- (g) Casinos licensed by the Michigan Gaming Control Board, racetracks licensed by the Michigan Gaming Control Board, and Millionaire Parties licensed by the Michigan Gaming Control Board; and
- (h) Places of public amusement not otherwise listed above.

Places of public accommodation subject to this section are encouraged to offer food and beverage using delivery service, window service, walk-up service, drive-through service, or drive-up service, and to use precautions in doing so to mitigate the potential transmission of COVID-19, including social distancing.

There have been other Executive Orders issued since yesterday that address restrictions on price gouging ([EO 2020-08](#)) and extending unemployment eligibility and cost-sharing ([EO 2020-10](#)).

## **BCHD Response Actions**

The Berrien County Health Department continues to work quickly to digest and synthesize the implications of the announcements over the past several days and how that will impact our community partners and our community at large. BCHD

has been in contact with the community organizations and entities that are impacted by the recent Executive Orders to ensure that they have a plan in place to comply with the orders. The situation continues to change quickly. It is important for the community to work together to slow the potential spread of illness and refer to official sources of reliable information.

As of right now, BCHD and other county departments are remaining open and operational. BCHD continues to coordinate with federal, state, and local officials, as well as institutions, businesses, schools, and community organizations to be ready for additional actions should we have local cases and community transmission.

BCHD will host another conference call on Tuesday, [March 17th](#) at 3:00PM for community partners to get updates and ask questions. This call is reserved for community partners and is not intended for members of the media or the general public. Call information is as follows:

**Call Number: Please email [publichealth@bchdmi.org](mailto:publichealth@bchdmi.org) for call information.**

All community partners are encouraged to spread the word of the BCHD hotline available at 1-800-815-5485 to hear a daily recorded update or have the option to speak to a staff member or leave a message. Current hours for this hotline are weekdays 8:30 am-5:00 pm. Community partners can also access us via email at [publichealth@bchdmi.org](mailto:publichealth@bchdmi.org).

### **COVID-19 Testing**

The Berrien County Health Department is working with health care providers to test individuals as needed. Individuals with concerns or symptoms should call their health care provider first with questions. There are more labs that can test for COVID-19 and it is anticipated that Lakeland will be able to test within their own lab in a week or so.

Spectrum Health Lakeland also announced at a press conference today that there are new ways that community members can get screened for COVID-19 and see if testing is needed:

- Chatbot screening tool: People can get real-time virtual answers to general COVID-19 questions using the chatbot on [www.spectrumhealth.org/covid19](http://www.spectrumhealth.org/covid19)
- Free virtual screening: If people in Michigan have COVID-19 symptoms such as fever and cough with or without difficulty breathing, they can schedule a free virtual screening by calling 616.391.2380. If they have severe or life-threatening symptoms, they should call 911.
- Drive-Up COVID-19 specimen collection: At the Center for Outpatient Services, 3900 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, to enable fast, efficient and safe

collection for testing. **It is not a drive-up site for screening, testing or on-demand specimen collection. Individuals must have a doctor's order for the testing to be completed.** During the specimen collection, individuals will stay in their car for the entire process while medical personnel wearing protective gear swab inside the nose. This option is available Monday through Friday from 8am-4pm. See Lakeland's [news announcement here](#).

### **Prevention**

There is currently no vaccine available to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Read the [CDC's framework for mitigation](#) of COVID-19.

#### Messaging for Parents Re: Playdates/Small Group Gatherings:

People are encouraged to limit playdates and other small group gatherings, especially with those who fall into a [high risk category](#). If small gatherings are happening, take precautions such as washing hands often, cover coughs/sneezes, clean and disinfect surfaces frequently, and stay home if you are sick. Read the [latest BCHD Facebook Post](#) regarding playdates.

This situation may change quickly. Refer to these sites for current information:

Berrien updates: <http://www.bchdmi.org>

Michigan updates: [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus)

National updates: <http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19>

Information current as of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.