



CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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"Working to enhance our community's total well-being"

TO: School and Municipal Leaders of Calhoun County

FROM: Calhoun County Public Health Department

DATE: March 3, 2020

Calhoun County School and Municipality Leaders,

In a follow-up to our call last Friday, your Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) is committed to keeping you informed regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

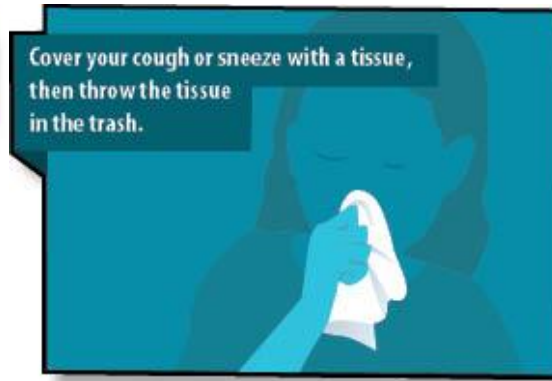
As of writing (3/3/20) there are no positive cases of COVID-19 in Michigan.



At this time, we need advocates (YOU!) within Calhoun County sharing this bulleted message:

- The best way to protect yourself and your family, and to stop the spread of viruses such as the flu, common cold, and COVID-19 include:
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water. If not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol).
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and wash your hands after disposing of the tissue.
 - Avoid contact with people who are sick.
 - Stay home if you are sick and contact your healthcare provider.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- People should be diligent about preventing flu since there have been thousands of influenza-like illnesses reported throughout the county. Individuals within the United States are still at a higher risk of getting the flu than COVID-19. If you have not received your flu shot, it is highly encouraged you do so now. The flu vaccine won't impact whether you get coronavirus, but it will avoid the possibility of being infected with both coronavirus and the flu simultaneously.
- Open a discussion with friends and fellow congregation members, business associates, and team members about foregoing handshakes as a greeting. Consider alternative greetings to handshakes such as a polite wave, "elbow bump," or even a "foot shake."

Right now, there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public in the United States.



Future Updates

Please expect to receive information from the following CCPHD emails and communicate with your IT on making sure your servers are accepting our emails and not sending to your spam folders:

- CCPHD public e-mail – publichealth@calhouncountymi.gov
- Eric Pessell, Health Officer – epessell@calhouncountymi.gov
- Brigitte Reichenbaugh, Deputy Health Officer & PIO – breichenbaugh@calhouncountymi.gov
- Kevin Green, Environmental Public Health Director – kgreen@calhouncountymi.gov
- Erin Somerlott, Emergency Preparedness Educator – esomerlott@calhouncountymi.gov

Additional information sources

We ask that you help us in sharing trusted, reliable resources for preparing individuals and communities as this situation plays out. Misinformation from untrustworthy posts on blogs and social media will quickly lead to confusion and fear.

Below are vetted sources for COVID-19 information that is being continually updated, and can be shared with the general public as you deem appropriate:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Community Mitigation Guidance <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/preparing-individuals-communities.html>
- Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools to plan, prepare and respond <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>
- Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to plan and respond <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>
- CDC in Action: Preparing Communities for Potential Spread <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/preparing-communities.html>
- CDC Protects and Prepares Communities (flyer 02.25.20) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/infographic-cdc-protects-508.pdf> also available on CDC website in Spanish and Simplified Chinese
- What you need to **know** about COVID-19 (flyer 02.21.20) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf> also available on CDC website in Spanish and Simplified Chinese
- What to do if you are **sick** with COVID-19 (flyer 02.21.20) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf> also available on CDC website in Spanish and Simplified Chinese

- Video versions of all the above guidance documents <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/videos.html>

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS):

- MDHHS's Frequently Asked Questions (pdf 02.28.20) https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/2019-ncov_Web_FAQ_Final_02.07.20_680693_7.pdf

Calhoun County Public Health Department

- Online: www.calhouncountymi.gov/publichealth
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/CCPublicHealthDepartment



Here is what CCPHD is doing:

As CCPHD receives updated guidance, we will share it with you to pass along to your families/friends/communities. Every email sent to you will include the date in the subject line.

CCPHD will make posts on our Facebook page for the general public (www.facebook.com/CCPubLidHealthDepartment). Please feel free to share directly from those posts.

Information shared through these emails will be more specifically geared towards Calhoun County staff and leadership. We will continue to update the front page of the health department's website (www.calhouncountymi.gov). All of the information shared (through social media, website or these emails) will be coming directly from www.michigan.gov/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov. We encourage you to start reviewing these websites as well.

CCPHD will coordinate with state and federal agencies for communication and guidance on COVID-19 to the public and healthcare professionals, and for risk assessment and action steps.

Sincerely,

Eric Pessell, REHS, BA – Health Officer

William Nettleton, MD, MPH – Medical Director