

District Health Department No. 4

For Immediate Release

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DHD 2 & 4 - Local Health Departments Respond to Michigan Supreme Court Ruling on Governor's Emergency Powers

In response to the Michigan Supreme Court ruling on October 2, 2020, that Governor Whitmer exceeded her power during the coronavirus pandemic, Denise Bryan, MPA, Health Officer, shares the following statement:

At this point, we understand that the Governor's Executive Orders are in effect for 21 days from the Supreme Court Ruling and the Governor has stated that many of them may be re-issued under other authorities. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) also has several Epidemic Orders in place which are not affected by the ruling. There are also multiple guidance plans and documents in place that serve to continue to guide us including the Return to School Roadmap and the MISafeStart Plan, as well as the comprehensive reopening plans developed by multiple sectors of business. MDHHS has advised us that they are working on their next steps which will take a little time. We believe the best scenario is to assess what future rules or orders may be issued statewide before we determine if any local orders will be necessary.

From a public health perspective, the safety precautions that are in place and all the work we have done together here in north-east lower Michigan are great reasons to "stay the course". Locally we continue to see an increase in positive cases and increased contacts in quarantine. Testing, quarantine, and isolation are foundational strategies in public health to interrupt disease transmission. Public health professionals will continue to recommend during this pandemic:

- Masking around others especially indoors
- Limiting gathering sizes, especially indoors
- Six (6) feet physical distancing from others
- Continue with workplace health screening of employees
- Stay home if ill
- Get your influenza vaccine

We want to remind everyone to continue to work together to keep each other safe. We encourage all sectors of business to continue to follow the reopening plans you have developed. They are working to reduce transmission of COVID-19. We have worked hard to get this far together, and we encourage everyone to stay the course and continue to protect themselves and each other. I wish to personally thank our public health staff for their tireless efforts to serve our communities, and daily commitment to our public health mission. We will continue to focus our public health efforts on testing, investigation, contact tracing, and timely communication of information to the public as it becomes available.

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