

COVID-19 “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Order

March 23, 2020

Governor Whitmer today issued a “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order requiring individuals to stay home and non-essential businesses to close, beginning at 12:01 am on March 24, 2020 for the next three weeks (April 13, 2020).

Under this order all public or private gatherings of any number, among people not part of a single household, are prohibited. This doesn’t preclude individuals from seeking emergency medical or dental care, seeking medical care to preserve the health and safety of their family, engaging in outdoor activities (walking, cycling, etc.), caring for loved ones and pets, or leaving the house to purchase groceries, take-out food, gasoline, needed medical supplies and prescriptions, or any other product necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, or basic needs of their home.

All individuals who leave their home must adhere to the social distancing measures recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, including remaining at least six feet from others. Additionally, no person or business shall conduct operations that require employees to leave their homes except for those employees that are necessary to sustain or protect life or conduct minimum basic operations.

Critical services necessary for “sustaining or protecting life” will remain open:

- Law enforcement, public safety, and first responders
- Health care
- Grocery stores
- Pharmacies
- Banks
- Gas stations
- Carry-out and drive-through restaurants
- Full list: [Michigan.gov/coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus)

Employees that are necessary to “conduct minimum basic operations” are those who:

- Maintain the value of inventory and equipment
- Care for animals
- Ensure security
- Process transactions (including payroll and employee benefits)
- Facilitate the ability of other workers to work remotely

Businesses will need to determine which of their employees are necessary to “conduct minimum basic operations” and make such designations in writing. However, such designations may be made orally until March 31, 2020. This order does not affect employees from working remotely.

A willful violation of this order is a misdemeanor; businesses may be fined and will be forcibly shutdown. The text of the order is available here:

https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-522626--,00.html

GMH's Coronavirus Task Force is here to answer your questions. While GMH is complying with Governor Whitmer's Order, we are available to assist you. Please contact any of the below lawyers for more Coronavirus support:



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