



DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NO. 2

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Recognizing our Current Economic Crisis Intercepts with our Public Health Crisis

As we continue to navigate the devastating multi-faceted effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our communities, District Health Department No. 2 (DHD2) realizes the concern that local business owners may have regarding their operations and the hope to soon move forward. It certainly is time to evaluate phases of safe business re-engagement with effective proactive protective measures. Executive Order 2020-77 issued by the Governor is currently being legally challenged; however it remains in effect.

As we struggle to return to some sort of normalcy, it cannot be without the realization that COVID-19 positive cases continue to rise within the DHD2 jurisdiction and this is a trend that we anticipate to see continue in the immediate future. Early on, no test kits were made available to North-East Michigan; however, recently, enhanced testing sites have been operational. Additionally, Iosco County has a potential outbreak and large-scale testing is underway. Especially, of concern is our communities have a large population of elderly people, many with co-morbidity risk factors. We must choose to act responsibly and Stay Home/Stay Safe.

Denise Bryan, Health Officer for DHD2 states: "It is critical every resident and visitor to our area act responsibly in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Individuals who are showing symptoms of illness must stay home. We also know that people may be asymptomatic (no symptoms/feel healthy) and yet are able to spread the virus to others. Physical distancing along with homemade face coverings reduces risks."

DHD2 is committed to keeping current with data on our website: www.dhd2.org/COVID-19. Business owners will also find a ToolKit with a variety of detailed information that can be adapted to public re-engagement phases in the Business Guidance section of the DHD2 COVID-19 website.