

## Michigan State Orders – Updated August 20

**Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Order:** expired June 1

Operations that remain open must follow certain [guidelines](#) and can find other resources on how to keep employees safe [here](#).

**August 20:** Some \$60 million in federal CARES Act dollars will be sent to Michigan school districts “that have been hit most significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Gov. Gretchen Whitmer says. The money “will help address the digital divide that has served as a barrier to remote learning for students and educators across the state,” Whitmer announced at her August 19 briefing ([source](#)).

The total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the state of Michigan is now 94,278 with total deaths at 6,349. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported 616 new cases and nine new deaths on August 19. The state also reported that 67,778 patients have recovered from COVID-19 in Michigan. That number is updated by the state every Saturday ([source](#)).

Applications for grant funds are still available through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Michigan Agricultural Safety Grant and the MEDC Small Farm Safety Grant programs for farmers and agricultural processors throughout the state. In tandem, the grant programs aim to help both large and small Michigan farms, as well as agricultural processors, mitigate the risks of COVID-19 across the state's food production industry ([source](#)).

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**August 18:** The number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Michigan has risen to 93,662 as of Tuesday, August 18, including 6,340 deaths, state officials report. Tuesday's update represents 477 new cases and 15 additional deaths, seven as a result of a Vital Records review. [On Monday, the state totals were 93,185 cases and 6,325 deaths](#). New cases have [plateaued in the last two weeks](#), while deaths remain flat in Michigan. Testing has remained steady, with an [average of more than 25,000](#) per day, with the positive rate between 3 and 4 percent. The state reported its highest one-day testing total with more than 41,000 diagnostic tests on Aug. 12 ([source](#)).

Ingham County Health Officer Linda S. Vail signed an emergency order on August 18 that restricts outdoor gatherings to no more than 25 people in the city of East Lansing amid the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#). The state of Michigan currently [restricts indoor public gatherings to 10 people](#) and outdoor gatherings to 100 people under Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders. Vail's new emergency order is specific to East Lansing -- which is home to thousands of college students who attend Michigan State University (MSU) ([source](#)).

A Michigan order requiring migrant and food processing workers to receive coronavirus tests before starting their jobs remains in effect two weeks after it was issued. A judge from the U.S. District Court for the Western Districts of Michigan denied a temporary restraining order that would have prohibited the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services from enforcing the order. The state order requires migrant housing camp operators to provide a baseline coronavirus test within 48 hours of arrival for all workers age 18 and older ([source](#)).

**August 13:** The number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Michigan has risen to 89,271 as of August 12, including 6,273 deaths, state officials report. Wednesday's update represents 515 new cases and nine additional deaths. [Tuesday's totals were 88,756 confirmed cases and 6,264 deaths.](#) New cases have [plateaued in the last two weeks](#), while deaths remain flat in Michigan. Testing has remained steady, with an [average of more than 25,000](#) per day, with the positive rate between 3 and 4 percent. [Hospitalizations have increased slightly](#), but remain considerably lower than in April ([source](#)).

Alger County, which includes Munising and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, has joined three other Upper Peninsula counties on the list of Michigan counties experiencing accelerated spread of coronavirus, based on infection rates for the past seven days. The other U.P. counties are Gogebic, Menominee and Ontonagon. That latter is home to the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. In the Lower Peninsula, counties with higher rates of infection include Macomb, Saginaw, Bay and Cass ([source](#)).

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**August 11:** New cases have [plateaued in the last two weeks](#), while deaths remain flat in Michigan. Testing has remained steady, with an [average of more than 25,000](#) per day, with the positive rate between 3 and 4 percent. [Hospitalizations have increased slightly](#), but remain considerably lower than in April. Michigan has reported 63,636 recoveries. The state [also reports "active cases,"](#) which were listed at 18,000 as of Monday, Aug. 10. Michigan's [7-day average moving average](#) for daily cases was 653 on Monday ([source](#)).

Gov. Whitmer again extended coronavirus safety measures for grocery stores, pharmacies and nursing homes in Michigan. Grocery stores and pharmacies must continue offering two hours of shopping time per week only for people most vulnerable to contracting coronavirus, such as senior citizens and people with chronic health conditions. Grocery stores and pharmacies also must notify coworkers if an employee tests positive for coronavirus and offer lower risk jobs in their stores or a leave of absence to employees most at risk of serious illness from coronavirus. Nursing homes and long-term care facilities, including juvenile justice centers, are required to maintain strong infection control measures and limit entry into their facilities. Nursing homes also are prohibited from evicting residents and taking punitive action against employees who stay home with coronavirus symptoms. All of the measures will remain in place until Sept. 7 ([source](#)).

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer [has signed an executive order](#) requiring children and workers to wear face masks at Michigan childcare centers, camps. Executive Order 2020-164 was issued in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreaks at these types of locations, Whitmer said. All staff members and children ages 2 and older will now have to wear face coverings on school buses and other transportation ([source](#)).

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has extended the Michigan state of emergency through Sept. 4, citing an uptick in coronavirus (COVID-19) cases and the looming return of in-person learning at schools ([source](#)).

**August 6:** The number of new daily coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Michigan is starting to plateau, and there are some positive trends in seven of the eight geographical regions, [the state's top health official said](#). Dr. Khaldun said the Detroit, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo regions are still seeing over 40 cases per million people per day, but there has been a steady decrease in those regions over the last two or three weeks ([source](#)).

On August 4, Gov. Whitmer signed [Executive Directive 2020-08](#) to "direct state departments and autonomous agency heads to review allocation of their resources to ensure that enforcement of COVID-19-related laws is a priority," reads a statement from her office. That includes [enforcing limitations on capacity](#) and the [requirement to wear a mask](#) when entering a Michigan business ([source](#)).

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**August 4:** Another 604 confirmed cases of the coronavirus were reported in Michigan on August 3, bringing the state's total confirmed case count to 83,386. There were six deaths reported in Michigan by the state health department, bringing the state's death toll to 6,212 confirmed, with another 251 listed as probably related to COVID-19 ([source](#)).

The state of Michigan has ordered coronavirus testing for many agricultural and migrant workers citing a series of outbreaks. MDHHS Director Robert Gordon issued an emergency order requiring the testing for agricultural and food processing employees on August 3 ([source](#)).

Macomb, Tuscola and Gladwin counties have all been marked as orange, which means that the coronavirus risk level is occurring at an "accelerated speed," according to the [COVID Risk Levels Dashboard by the Harvard Global Health Institute](#). The website recommends a stay-at-home order and more testing and tracing in counties marked in orange ([source](#)).

President Trump granted Gov. Whitmer's request to extend the Michigan National Guard's coronavirus (COVID-19) relief assistance through the end of the year. The state's use of the National Guard was set to expire Aug. 21 due to a previous deadline, but members of the Guard can now receive federal pay and benefits for helping with the Michigan COVID-19 response through Dec. 31 ([source](#)).

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On **July 29**, Gov. Whitmer announced that Michigan will limit indoor gatherings to 10 people and ban indoor service at bars as the state experiences a spike in coronavirus cases. All bars in the state must close if they earn over 70% of their "gross receipts" from the sale of alcohol. Whitmer's order also allows casinos in the state to reopen on August 5, but they can only operate at 15% capacity. Casinos also must require a temperature screening daily for employees and customers, in addition to mandating that patrons wear a mask or face covering, amid other restrictions. The changes will take effect on July 31 ([source](#)).

Michigan now has 80,172 confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. There are currently 6,172 deaths attributed to COVID-19, in which patients tested positive for the virus. There also are 251 probable deaths, based on symptoms. Health officials recommend looking at seven-day moving averages to evaluate data trends during the pandemic. The state now averaging 703 new cases, and four new deaths per day ([source](#)).

Grand Rapids will join the rest of the state in no longer being categorized as high-risk for COVID-19, Michigan Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh Khaldun announced at a press conference on July 28. The region had been [designated “high-risk”](#) in early July and was the only such region in the state as of July 24 ([source](#)).

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**July 28:** The number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Michigan has risen to 78,507 as of Monday, July 27, including 6,154 deaths, state officials report. New cases have increased moderately in recent weeks, while deaths remain flat in Michigan. Testing has increased in the last week, with an [average of more than 30,000](#) per day, with the positive rate between 3 and 4 percent. [Hospitalizations have increased slightly](#), but remain considerably lower than in April ([source](#)).

On July 27, Gov. Whitmer signed two emergency orders extending previous ones allowing remote notarization and electronic transmission of youth work permits. [EO 157](#) extends a previous order that allows youth work permits to be filed electronically rather than on the colored paper required in Michigan law. The order was [last extended](#) in June. [EO 158](#) extends a previous order encouraging the use of electronic signatures and remote witnessing signatures, suspending in-person requirements ([source](#)).

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**July 23:** Officials announced 523 new confirmed coronavirus cases and six new deaths on July 22, pushing Michigan past the 75,000-confirmed case mark. If also counting the “probable” totals – which include positive antibody tests – Michigan has nearly 84,000 cases. That ranks [13th in the country](#), although Michigan is the 10th-largest state by population ([source](#)).

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**July 21:** The number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Michigan has risen to 74,152 as of July 20, including 6,126 deaths, state officials report. New cases have increased moderately in the last week, while deaths remain flat in Michigan. Testing has increased in the last week, with an [average of more than 20,000](#) per day, with the positive rate just above 3 percent. [Hospitalizations have increased slightly](#) since last week ([source](#)).

Farms with fewer than 10 employees can take advantage of a new grant program announced Monday, July 20 by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The \$1.25 million comes from Michigan's Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funding ([source](#)).

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**July 15:** Michigan officials [reported 891 new confirmed COVID-19 cases on July 15](#), which is the most daily cases since May 14. In that time, the highest daily total was 773 on May 18 ([source](#)).

On July 14, Gov. Whitmer extended Michigan’s state of emergency due to COVID-19 through Aug. 11 ([source](#)).

The application process is now open for \$15 million in grants for Michigan farms and agricultural processors to mitigate risks of the COVID-19 virus across the state’s food production industry, the

Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) announced July 15 ([source](#)).

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**July 14:** [Executive Order 2020-147](#) reiterates that individuals are required to wear a face covering whenever they are in an indoor public space. It also requires the use of face coverings in crowded outdoor spaces, where you cannot maintain proper social distancing. It went into effect on July 13 at 12 a.m. ([source](#)).

On July 13, Gov. Whitmer signed two executive orders that extend protections for nursing homes and rules for grocery stores and other businesses dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a news release from Whitmer's office, the order covering nursing homes extends protections put in place by a June 16 order to Aug. 10. The other executive order extends these rules for grocery stores, pharmacies and other businesses, through Aug. 10 ([source](#)).

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**On July 8,** Michigan reported 11 new coronavirus deaths and confirmed 610 new cases — the highest single-day case count in seven weeks. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services had tracked 67,237 cases of COVID-19 and 6,015 deaths through Wednesday, July 8 ([source](#)).

As coronavirus cases increase in Michigan, state health leaders have downgraded several state regions on a coronavirus "risk phase" map. The Grand Rapids region was moved to "high risk," joining the Lansing region. The metro Detroit area also dropped one grade to "medium high" risk and regions in the northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula moved to "medium risk" ([source](#)).

**On July 7,** The Michigan Strategic Fund approved a \$100 million program that will provide grants to small businesses around Michigan working to recover from the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 virus, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced ([source](#)).

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation has announced \$15 million in safety grants to provide relief for farms around the state during the COVID-19 pandemic ([source](#)).

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**On July 1,** Gov. Whitmer announced that she is ordering establishments with on-premises retailer liquor licenses that earn more than 70% of their gross receipts from alcohol sales to shut down their indoor bar services until further notice. Indoor bar service in six of the state's eight geographical regions will be shut down, excluding the Upper Peninsula and Traverse City Region -- the only two regions in [phase five of reopening](#) ([source](#)).

On July 1, Gov. Whitmer signed a package of bills [allowing restaurants to serve alcoholic drinks to-go and via delivery](#) ([source](#)).

Michigan bars affected by Gov. Whitmer's recent closures are allowed to continue outdoor service, but must require people to wear masks until they're seated and can only serve people at tables rather than at a bar top. All "common areas" used for dancing or other mingling must close. Bars that are open for outdoor service can allow customers to go inside to use the bathroom ([source](#)).

On July 1, Gov. Whitmer signed a series of laws that extend the expiration dates of driver's licenses, state IDs and vehicle registrations that originally would have expired after March 1 until Sept. 30 ([source](#)).

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said the state will not be moved to the [fifth phase of her reopening plan](#) by the Fourth of July weekend, [as she had originally planned](#) ([source](#)).

Michigan is one of three states in which U.S. servicemen and women are barred from traveling to and from at this time due to increases in COVID-19 cases and/or positive tests. The Midwest state joins California and Florida as the only other states that haven't been given green status for personnel travel, according to a [June 29 memo](#) from the U.S. Department of Defense ([source](#)).

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The new cases announced on June 29 were fewer than the seven-day moving average, which has climbed to 290 new cases per day. The four new deaths were less than the seven-day average of seven deaths per day, marking a continued downward trend ([source](#)).

On June 29, Gov. Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-138 and Executive Order 2020-137 to increase access to healthcare through telehealth options and protect migrant agricultural workers living in congregate housing from the risk of outbreaks ([source](#)).

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**June: 24:** On June 24, [Michigan reported 323 new COVID-19 cases](#) -- the highest one-day total since May, and the first day of more than 300 new cases since June 3. These aren't astronomically higher numbers than where we've been at -- near 200 -- but the trend has increased ([source](#)).

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer told FOX 2 on Tuesday, June 23, that she hoped to move the rest of the state into phase 5 this week but recent spikes in cases have caused her to wait a bit longer before making that move ([source](#)).

Most Michigan gyms will remain closed Thursday (June 25), after a panel of three federal judges sided with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer just hours before they were to reopen. The order [reverses an order](#) by U.S. District Court Judge Paul Maloney on Monday, who had allowed fitness centers to remain open and refused to pause his decision while Whitmer appealed. Gyms were set to open Thursday under the ruling ([source](#)).

**June 21:** For the fourth consecutive day, Michigan health officials have announced more than 200 new coronavirus cases. Michigan reported 255 new confirmed coronavirus cases Saturday, June 20, increasing the state's total to 61,084 cases. Until June 17, new confirmed cases had remained below 200 since June 12 ([source](#)).

Michigan gyms can still open on Thursday (June 25), after a federal judge declined to halt his order while Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appeals the case to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ([source](#)).

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On **June 17**, Gov. Gretchen [Whitmer](#) said she will extend the state's coronavirus state of emergency, which was set to expire Friday, June 19. [Whitmer](#) said during a press conference that Michigan "will

remain in some form of a state of emergency order.” Meanwhile, Whitmer also announced that Michigan schools may resume in-person learning in phase 4 of the state's reopening plan ([source](#)).

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**June 16:** Michigan imposed a mandate on the testing of Michigan nursing home patients and staff after surveying each of the state's 447 nursing homes and determining they've accounted for nearly 2,000 or 34% of the state's COVID-19 deaths, as of June 14 ([source](#)).

The Henry Ford Museum announced that they will first open to members for a “preview weekend” on July 2-5, and then will reopen to the public on July 9 ([source](#)).

Beginning June 15, Governor Gretchen Whitmer's executive order allows for residents to get a haircut and parents to send their children to summer camp. However, it still prohibits gyms that are not located in upper Michigan or the Upper Peninsula from reopening ([source](#)).

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**June 11:** The Michigan legislature is on track to allow restaurants to sell to-go and delivery cocktails, as well as allow local governments to create “social districts” where people of age can purchase to-go drinks and consume them in designated areas ([source](#)).

**June 8:** [Gov. Whitmer announced that on June 15](#), personal services including hair, massages and nails will reopen statewide ([source](#)).

[Public outdoor swimming pools](#) in Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties are allowed to reopen Monday, as long as precautionary guidelines are followed, including limiting capacity in the pools to 50% ([source](#)).

Beginning June 8, libraries and museums are allowed to welcome patrons back. Michigan state parks will [allow campers to come in beginning June 22](#), which includes openings of overnight lodging facilities and shelters, shelters in state parks, recreation areas and sanitation stations ([source](#)).

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**Restaurants:** 32 counties could reopen bars and restaurants at 50% capacity on May 22 if they followed these [guidelines](#). Restaurants and bars statewide can resume operation on June 8.

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[Businesses That Remain Open For In-Person Work Must Take Aggressive Steps To Minimize The Virus's Spread.](#)

[How Do I Keep My Essential Employees Safe?](#)