

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ADDITIONAL LIMITS ON SOCIAL GATHERINGS AND ORGANIZED EVENTS OCCURRING UNDER MDHHS¹ EMERGENCY ORDER – GATHERING PROHIBITION AND MASK ORDER - WITHIN THE CITIES OF ANN ARBOR AND YPSILANTI

The Washtenaw County Local Health Officer issues this Order pursuant to the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL 333.2453 as it has been determined that it is necessary to protect the public health from further spread of COVID-19 within Washtenaw County.

In response to the ongoing public health emergency and the risk posed by a resurgence of COVID-19, matters concerning the public health of the residents of Washtenaw County have been brought to the attention of the Washtenaw County Health Officer. The Local Health Officer has determined that controls are necessary to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and to protect the public's health in Washtenaw County based on the following facts:

- A communicable disease, novel Coronavirus, which causes COVID-19 has been identified and can be transmitted from person to person.
- In order to control and limit the spread of the novel Coronavirus, it is necessary to prevent infected people from coming into contact with people not infected.
- The spread of COVID-19 can be reduced with cloth face coverings, social distancing, and staying home when sick.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that individuals stay at least 6 feet from others who are not in the same household. Risk of COVID-19 transmission at a gathering or event increases as the size of the event or gathering increases.

Washtenaw County has reported a total of 3,545 confirmed cases of COVID-19 to date. County data shows a significant increase in the proportion of cases among 18 to 22 year-olds, with this age group making up 78% of reported cases in the two-week period of September 17, 2020 to October 1, 2020. This trend of an increasing percentage of young people becoming infected with COVID-19 is present in many states across the country. With thousands of students having returned to two large universities in Washtenaw County, many from states with high rates of COVID-19, living in congregate settings, and traditionally disposed toward socializing in large groups, further restrictions need to be put in place to prevent outbreaks related to large social gatherings and organized events. Large social gatherings have demonstrated an increased public health risk with potential for further outbreaks, including super-spreading events. An area of increased public health risk for COVID-19 outbreaks and community spread exists within the City of Ann Arbor and the City of Ypsilanti.

It is hereby ordered that:

1. **Gatherings and events at a residence.** Social gatherings and organized events among persons not part of the same household are permitted at a residence **in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti** only to the extent provided in this order.
 - a. Indoor gatherings of up to 10 people occurring at an **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti residence** are permitted.
 - b. Outdoor gatherings or events of up to **25** people occurring at an **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti residence** are permitted.

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2. This Order reduces gatherings permitted at residences in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti as described under [MDHHS's emergency order](#) regarding gatherings and events issued on October 5, 2020. All other guidelines and restrictions outlined in the MDHHS October 5, 2020 order must be complied with.
3. Any individual, group or entity organizing or hosting a gathering or event is strongly encouraged to make and keep a record of all attendees for 21 days thereafter. If confirmed COVID-19 cases become associated with the gathering or event, the record will greatly facilitate case investigations by the Washtenaw County Health Department.
4. This order does not apply to:
 - a. Social gatherings or organized events that take place outside of the City of Ann Arbor and the City of Ypsilanti;
 - b. Day care settings;
 - c. Social gatherings or events that take place in non-residential settings (see the MDHHS order); and
 - d. Social gatherings or events that take place in [bars or restaurants](#) (see local 50% capacity order).

Such measures will be enforced, and any violations are subject to citation and penalties as outlined in the Michigan Public Health Code.

This order takes effect immediately and will remain in effect until it is determined by the Washtenaw County Health Officer that the threat to the public's health and lives is no longer present.

This order may be revised as well as supplemented with specific procedures and orders in accordance with the Michigan Public Health Code.

October 7, 2020



Jimena Loveluck, MSW
Health Officer

¹ Michigan Department of Health and Human Services