

**PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC
STAY IN PLACE ORDER FOR UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDENTS**

The Washtenaw County Health Officer issues this Order pursuant to the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL 333.2235, 333.2433, 333.2451 and 333.2453 as it has been determined in collaboration with the University of Michigan that COVID-19 poses an imminent danger to public health and it is necessary to protect the public health from further spread of COVID-19 within Washtenaw County.

Determinations:

1. The disease caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. There is currently no approved vaccine or antiviral treatment for this disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouth or nose of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet);
2. Control of the COVID-19 epidemic is necessary to protect the public health of the residents of Washtenaw County;
3. University of Michigan (“U-M”) began moving students onto its Ann Arbor, Michigan (Washtenaw County) campus housing on August 24, 2020 and resumed in-person hybrid instruction shortly thereafter pursuant to stringent COVID-19 distancing, mitigation and testing protocols;
4. As of October 19, 2020, there were 4,229 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in all of Washtenaw County since the beginning of the pandemic;
5. Despite the efforts of Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD), and many in the U-M community, there have been more than 1,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases among students at the U-M Ann Arbor campus since the start of the fall semester;
6. There is current evidence that activity at or near the Ann Arbor campus is driven by social gatherings that do not adhere to the MDHHS epidemic orders and WCHD public health orders allowing indoor gatherings of no more than 10 individuals, with face coverings and a sustained distance of 6 feet or more between persons;
7. COVID-19 cases among 18-24-year-old persons, thus far in Washtenaw County, have not resulted in increased hospitalization or death rates. Additionally, thus far, the increased incidence in 18-24-year-old persons has not been linked to increased incidence in other populations in Washtenaw County. Additional preventive efforts are necessary to ensure that this remains so.
8. The WCHD has been conducting surveillance of COVID-19 cases associated with U-M. Epidemiological data indicates:
 - a. In the middle of August, prior to move-in, U-M related cases were 2% of the total Washtenaw County cases. At the time of this order, U-M related cases are 61% of the total Washtenaw County cases.
 - b. Since August 24, 2020, there have been more than 1,000 cases of COVID-19 in the student population living on or near the U-M campus in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
 - c. Case rates per million have continued to rise, indicating disease spread among U-M students and daily rates have far exceeded maximum indicator thresholds for risk to the community.

- d. The majority of cases are among residence hall and off-campus students living in congregate settings (i.e. fraternities and sororities, cooperative housing) and appear to be driven by social gatherings both on and off campus.
 - e. U-M has developed COVID-19 response metrics and reported to WCHD that of the 5 metrics categorized under the criteria of “Increase of Disease Spread”, 3 have been met; of the 2 for “Strain on Public Health Capacity”, both metrics have been met.
9. The U-M-associated surge in cases is overwhelming the ability of WCHD, including U-M Environmental Health Safety (UM-EHS) who conducts on-campus COVID-19 case investigation, to adequately address the COVID-19 pandemic and other critical public health mandates that are in place to protect the health and well-being of Washtenaw County residents; and
10. The U-M administration has been actively engaged in discussions of these determinations and epidemiological findings and has partnered in the decision to take the actions described in the Order below.

It is hereby ordered that:

1. Beginning immediately on October 20, 2020 and ending November 3, 2020 at 7:00 a.m., all U-M undergraduate students enrolled in U-M Fall 2020 on the Ann Arbor Campus, living in on-campus, near-campus or off-campus housing will be required to “stay in place” and remain in their current designated residence. It is recommended that all students remain at their current address. Students who live in U-M housing may only return to their permanent address if they follow U-M testing and checkout procedures. If students living in off-campus housing return to their permanent address, it is strongly recommended they undergo COVID-19 testing prior to leaving their current residence and stay in place at their permanent address for the duration of this order. For the purposes of this order, “staying in place” means that gatherings or group activities shall not occur outside the listed exceptions below:
 - a. Students will be allowed to attend in-person classes, including instructional labs, and access essential technology at U-M designated study areas that provide for single person study space. Strict adherence to preventive measures is required.
 - b. Students will be allowed to leave their room/residence for the purpose of picking up food and other basic needs, attending medical appointments, picking up medication, voting or election related activities (including registering to vote, working at polling locations, campaign outreach and leafletting), attending religious practice activities or obtaining COVID-19 testing. Strict adherence to preventive measures is required.
 - c. Students will be allowed to attend work with the approval of the employer, if the work cannot be done remotely. Strict adherence to preventive measures is required.
 - d. Students who have clinical rotations, student teaching or other off-campus experiential learning assignments that are held in person will be allowed to continue only with approval from the college dean and disclosure to the organization of placement such that both the school and site are aware and supportive of continued participation. Strict adherence to preventive measures is required.
 - e. Students will be allowed to leave their room/residence for purposes of physical activity outdoors in groups of no more than two. Strict adherence to preventive measures is required.
 - f. Students who are associated with intercollegiate varsity sports may attend practices and competitions provided that athletic medical staff is present during the entire process, actively supervises the team’s COVID-19 mitigation activities during the practice, has the authority to suspend the practice if he or she believes COVID-19 mitigation practices require that result, and testing is conducted per governing athletic organizations’ (i.e. Big10) policies.

2. Students are required to respond to inquiries (texts, emails or calls) from the WCHD and U-M-EHS and are required to fully disclose information relevant to case investigation and contact tracing (see Attachment 1 – WCHD Compliance Criteria).
3. Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 (cases), or who are identified as a close contact to a case, are required to adhere to all public health isolation and quarantine restrictions as set forth by the WCHD / U-M-EHS. The exceptions listed in this order (1.a-f) do not apply to students, staff or faculty that are under a public health order to quarantine or isolate.
4. Strict preventive measures include adherence to the WCHD and U-M guidelines regarding COVID-19 prevention; maintaining 6-foot distance between persons; and wearing a face covering in compliance with [U-M Face Covering Policy for COVID-19](#) and [MDHHS Gathering Prohibition and Face Covering Order](#). In-person gatherings with non-household members are strictly prohibited for the duration of this order. Under no circumstance are visitors permitted in on- or off-campus housing for the duration of this order. If a residence employs individuals to provide food preparation, cleaning, maintenance or repair services to the residents, such employees may be permitted to enter on- or off-campus housing.
5. If incidence of COVID-19 among U-M students and staff continue to be substantially above the rates of other Washtenaw County residents and/or if U-M COVID-19 response metrics continue to be exceeded (*including: 1) 5 days of sustained increases in student, staff, or faculty infections, determined in partnership with WCHD; 2) Over a 14 day period, 3 clusters that exceed the ability or capacity for full contact tracing as determined by WCHD; 3) 1 cluster with >100 contacts; 4) In Washtenaw County, >70 new cases per million, sustained 10% positivity, or 3 consecutive days of +10% case increase; 5) Inability to provide prompt case investigation and prompt contact tracing; 6) Isolation and quarantine housing projected to reach capacity within 14 days or 80% of 600 beds*), this Order may be extended beyond November 3, 2020 and more restrictive measures may be required.

Such measures will be enforced, and any violations are subject to citation and penalties as outlined in the Michigan Public Health Code. In coordination with U-M administration, failure to adhere to this Order would constitute a violation of the U-M [Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities COVID addendum](#) and may lead to student sanctions up to and including suspension/expulsion.

Date: October 20, 2020
Amended: October 23, 2020



Jimena Loveluck, MSW
Health Officer