



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

July 1, 2021

Rescission of Agricultural Worker Epidemic Order

Michigan law imposes on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) a duty to “continually and diligently endeavor to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health,” and gives the Department “general supervision of the interests of the health and life of the people of this state.” MCL 333.2221.

On March 10, 2020, MDHHS identified the first two presumptive-positive cases of COVID-19 in Michigan. Since October 9, 2020, MDHHS has issued epidemic orders to control the spread of COVID-19 across the state. As of June 29, 2021, Michigan has seen a total of 894,628 confirmed cases and 19,748 confirmed deaths attributable to COVID-19.

Since the April 2021 peak, positivity rates, case rates, hospitalizations, and deaths have decreased. As of June 29, 2021, the weekly average positivity rate has decreased by 93% from the mid-April 2021 peak to 1.3%. The seven-day average case rate for Michigan has fallen by 98% to 13.0 cases per million through June 23, 2021. The average rate of COVID-19 cases detected per day in Michigan is below 150 and continues to fall. These are the lowest percent positivity and case rates in Michigan over the past year. As of June 29, 2021, there are 325 Michiganders hospitalized with COVID-19, a decline of 93% since the mid-April 2021 peak. The seven-day average daily death rate through June 23, 2021, has declined by 89% to less than one death per million.

Since December 11, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration has granted emergency use authorization to three vaccines to prevent COVID-19, providing a path to end the pandemic. As of June 30, 2021, 61.8% of Michigan residents 16 and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. The introduction of highly effective and safe COVID-19 vaccines and the warmer weather have greatly reduced the spread of COVID-19 across the United States. An increasing number and volume of therapeutics are also available, such as monoclonal antibodies, which can help to reduce the severity of COVID-19 cases.

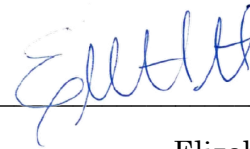
Finally, other protections for agricultural workers remain in effect. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development’s February 25, 2021, emergency rules continue to require that agricultural laborer housing camps establish COVID-19 preparedness and response plans and provide quarantine housing for workers who were exposed to COVID-19, among other protections.

Considering the above, and upon the advice of scientific and medical experts, I have concluded that although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to constitute an epidemic in Michigan, the above-mentioned epidemic order can be lifted at this time.

I therefore order that the order entitled “Mandatory Testing, Preventative Measures, and Safe Housing for Agricultural Workers” issued on June 11, 2021, is rescinded. This order does not affect any proceedings or prosecutions based on conduct that has or will occur before the effective rescission date of the above referenced order.

This order is effective immediately.

Date: July 1, 2021



Elizabeth Hertel, Director

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services