



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

Emergency Order Pursuant to MCL 333.2253

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. It is caused by a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans and easily spread from person to person. There is currently no approved vaccine or antiviral treatment for this disease.

On March 10, 2020, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services identified the first two presumptive-positive cases of COVID-19 in Michigan. On that same day, Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-4. As of March 20, 2020, there were 549 cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in Michigan. Evidence suggests that some of these cases are the result of community spread.

Social distancing measures, including isolation of persons affected by COVID-19, are essential to control the epidemic. The success of such measures is reliant upon rapid identification of persons affected by the virus.

Michigan presently lacks laboratory capacity to quickly process the samples of all persons tested for COVID-19. There is also a limited supply of sampling materials across the state. To maximize the public health benefit of available sampling and testing capacity, it is necessary to coordinate the state's laboratory network such that priority tests are run first.

Likewise, Michigan faces a potential shortfall of hospital beds and personal protective equipment. Consistent, timely reporting of these resources by hospitals will facilitate planning and expedite resupply of necessary items.

In light of the above, and upon the advice of scientific and medical experts employed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, I have conclude pursuant to MCL 333.2253 that COVID-19 has reached epidemic status in Michigan. I further conclude that control of the epidemic is necessary to protect the public health, and that it is necessary to establish procedures to be followed during the epidemic to insure continuation of essential public health services and enforcement of health laws.

I therefore order that:

1. CLIA-certified facilities in the state of Michigan that process tests for COVID-19 must prioritize sampling and testing for COVID-19 in the manner instructed by the Department. Instructions can be found attached to this order, and may be updated from time to time.
2. Physicians and other health professionals who collect specimens for testing of COVID-19 must label specimens in the manner instructed by the Department. Instructions can be found attached to this order, and may be updated from time to time.
3. Hospitals in the state of Michigan must abide by the Department's instructions on reporting of information related to the COVID-19 response. Instructions can be found attached to this order, and may be updated from time to time.

This order is effective immediately, and remains in effect until lifted. MDHHS appreciates the strain that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on hospitals, and asks hospitals to make a good faith effort under the circumstances to comply with these important reporting obligations.

Date: March 23, 2020



Robert Gordon, Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services



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Hospital Reporting

EMResource Reporting Requirements

The Department of Health and Human Services will now conduct daily bed capacity events within the EMResource platform. This platform is used to track healthcare resources, availability and facility operational status. Now more than ever, every hospital in Michigan must continue to comply with all requests, including:

- Frequency of updates to bed capacity;
- PPE inventory;
- Laboratory testing capacity;
- Number of ventilated patients;
- Number of ventilators;
- Patient census;
- Staffing shortages;
- Units or areas dedicated to COVID-19 treatment;
- and other data calls which, in the hospital's judgment, may help to support response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MDHHS will monitor the EMResource platform to maintain situational awareness of hospital resource capacity and communicate amongst the various state agencies through the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC). MDHHS will continue to use this information to direct resources.

Mandatory Death Reporting

The reportable condition list for the state of Michigan has been expanded to include mandatory reporting of Deaths Associated with COVID-19 within 24 hours of identification consistent with Michigan's communicable disease rules and section MCL 333.5111 of Michigan's Public Health Code. Within 2 hours of the death of an individual from COVID-19, health facilities, including but not limited to hospitals, must contact the local health officer to inform them of the death.

Laboratory Reporting

The MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories will prioritize testing of specimens for suspected COVID-19 that have public health significance. This includes specimens that are associated with active investigations of known contacts, individuals with concerning exposure histories and risk profiles, and specimens obtained during cluster investigations.

Initial 10 validation (5 positive and 5 negative) control results by the new incoming network laboratories must be submitted to either state bureau of laboratories (BOL) or FDA within 15 days of commencement of testing to enable approval of Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the BOL or FDA as required by the current FDA directive.

All laboratory tests conducted for Novel Coronavirus must be reported to the Department via the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (i.e., electronic laboratory reports or manual case entry) within 4 hours of completion of the test, whether positive or negative.

COVID-19 testing

Effective immediately, all health professionals conducting testing for the Novel Coronavirus must test in accordance with the COVID-19 prioritization criteria published by MDHHS.

Health professionals must also label COVID-19 specimens in the manner directed by MDHHS.

Date: March 23, 2020