Drug Testing Safely during a Pandemic of Unknown Duration
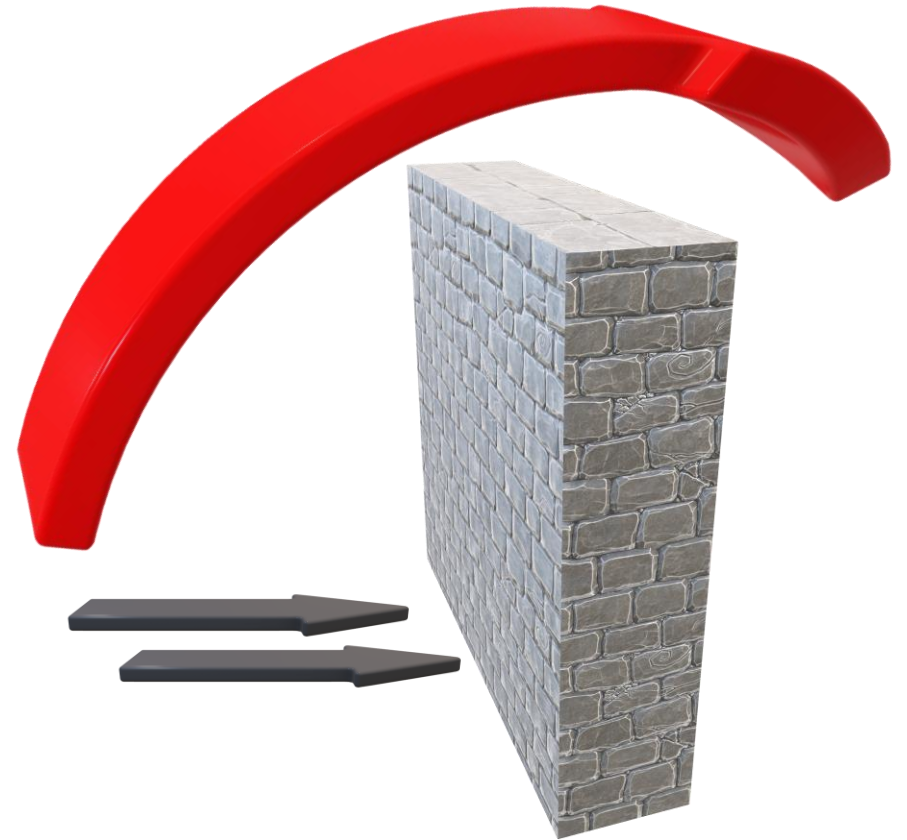

Reclaiming Lives. Uniting Families. Strengthening Communities.

COVID-19 MDHHS Re-Opening Implementation Timeline

Week of May 25th
Case workers review and update client list and notification information

May 29th
Go live statewide
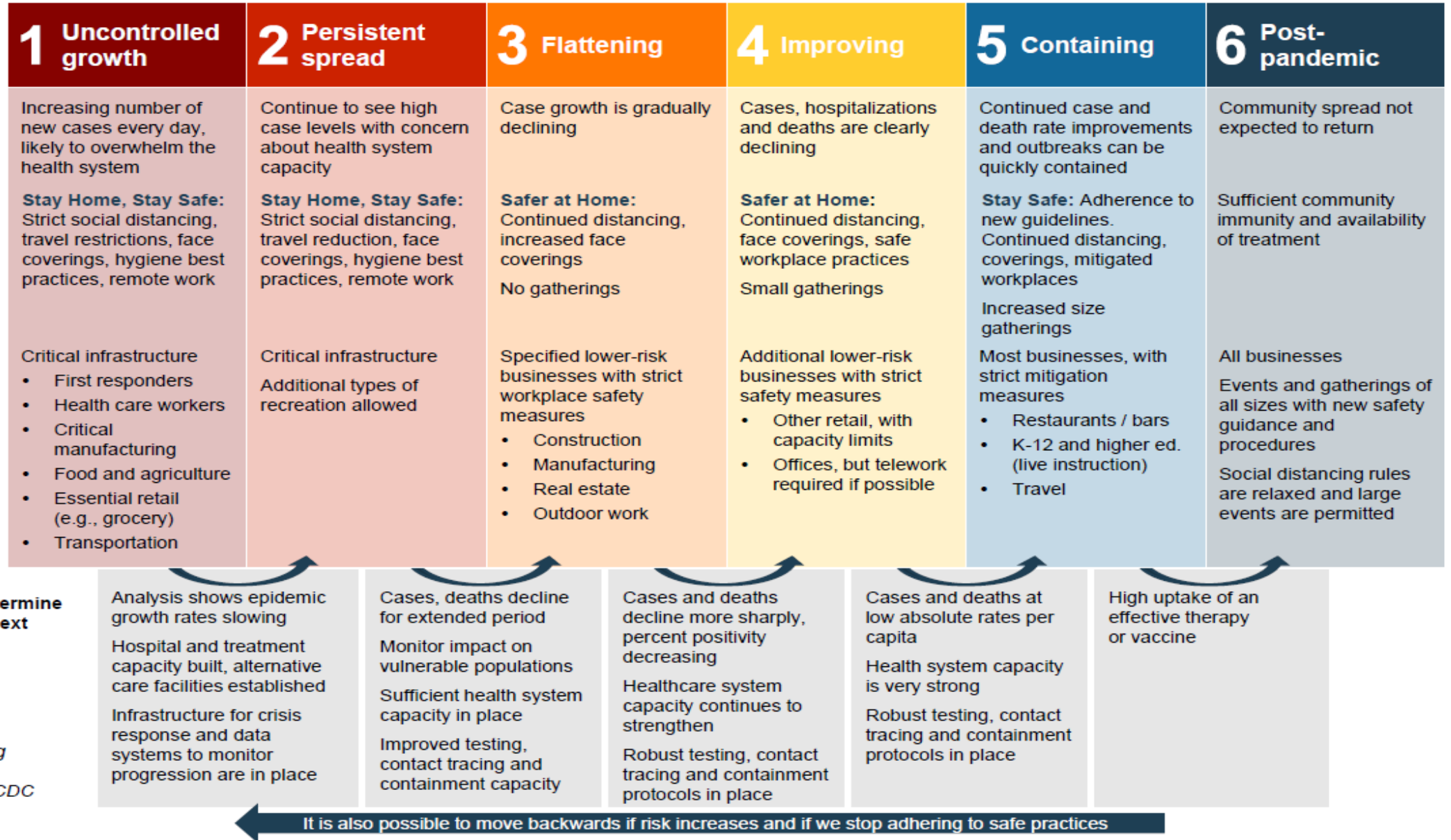
Week of June 1st
Call 25% of random testing

Week of June 8th
Call 50% of random testing

Week of June 15th
Call 100% of random testing

MI Safe Start Plan

	1 Uncontrolled growth	2 Persistent spread	3 Flattening	4 Improving	5 Containing	6 Post-pandemic
What's happening with the disease?	Increasing number of new cases every day, likely to overwhelm the health system	Continue to see high case levels with concern about health system capacity	Case growth is gradually declining	Cases, hospitalizations and deaths are clearly declining	Continued case and death rate improvements and outbreaks can be quickly contained	Community spread not expected to return
What do we need to do to stay safe?	**Stay Home, Stay Safe:** Strict social distancing, travel restrictions, face coverings, hygiene best practices, remote work	**Stay Home, Stay Safe:** Strict social distancing, travel reduction, face coverings, hygiene best practices, remote work	**Safer at Home:** Continued distancing, increased face coverings No gatherings	**Safer at Home:** Continued distancing, face coverings, safe workplace practices Small gatherings	**Stay Safe:** Adherence to new guidelines. Continued distancing, coverings, mitigated workplaces Increased size gatherings	Sufficient community immunity and availability of treatment
What work can we do? *(Examples)*	Critical infrastructure • First responders • Health care workers • Critical manufacturing • Food and agriculture • Essential retail (e.g., grocery) • Transportation	Critical infrastructure Additional types of recreation allowed	Specified lower-risk businesses with strict workplace safety measures • Construction • Manufacturing • Real estate • Outdoor work	Additional lower-risk businesses with strict safety measures • Other retail, with capacity limits • Offices, but telework required if possible	Most businesses, with strict mitigation measures • Restaurants / bars • K-12 and higher ed. (live instruction) • Travel	All businesses Events and gatherings of all sizes with new safety guidance and procedures Social distancing rules are relaxed and large events are permitted
What factors determine progression to next phase?	Analysis shows epidemic growth rates slowing Hospital and treatment capacity built, alternative care facilities established Infrastructure for crisis response and data systems to monitor progression are in place	Cases, deaths decline for extended period Monitor impact on vulnerable populations Sufficient health system capacity in place Improved testing, contact tracing and containment capacity	Cases and deaths decline more sharply, percent positivity decreasing Healthcare system capacity continues to strengthen Robust testing, contact tracing and containment protocols in place	Cases and deaths at low absolute rates per capita Health system capacity is very strong Robust testing, contact tracing and containment protocols in place	High uptake of an effective therapy or vaccine	

Note: This framing is being updated and refined as additional guidance from CDC and public health experts becomes available

It is also possible to move backwards if risk increases and if we stop adhering to safe practices

What about Stay-at-Home / Shelter-in-Place Orders?

Laboratories licensed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (e.g., CLIA, CAP) are deemed Essential Critical Infrastructure by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.[1]

"If you work in a critical infrastructure industry…
…such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply,
you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule."
-- U.S. Department of Homeland Security

[1] https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce.

Can We Safely Provide Drug Testing?

Safely administering drug testing requires that we understand how COVID-19 is spread and implement practices that protect patients and providers alike.

		Viability/Survival Duration of Virus	Mode of Transmission	Mitigating Practice(s)
Air		Droplets can hang in the air for 0.5-3 hrs as aerosol[1][2]	Likely primary mode of transmission	• Wear Masks • Physical Distancing
Surfaces	Cardboard	About 8 hrs[3]	Hypothesized to be a mode of transmission[6], however, studies show low concentration of virus[7]	• Sanitize Surfaces • Frequently Wash Hands
	Paper	4-5 days[4]		
	Glass	Up to 4 days[4]		
	Metals	Up to 48 hrs on stainless steel[3] and up to 4 hrs on copper[1]		
	Wood	Up to 4 days[4]		
	Plastic	6-9 days[4]		
	Ceramics	Up to 5 days[4]		
	Stone	2-12 days[4]		
	Packaging	Up to about 16 hrs[5]		
	Textiles	Up to about 16 hrs[5]		

[1] https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973.
[2] https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/health/coronavirus-surfaces-aerosols.html?auth=login-email&login=email.
[3] https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/who-china-joint-mission-on-covid-19-final-report.pdf.
[4] https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/S0195-6701(20)30046-3/fulltext.
[5] https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.09.20033217v1.full.pdf
[6] https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/coronavirus-resource-center.
[7] https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/03/200330110348.htm.

How to Safely Administer Drug Testing in a Patient Care Center
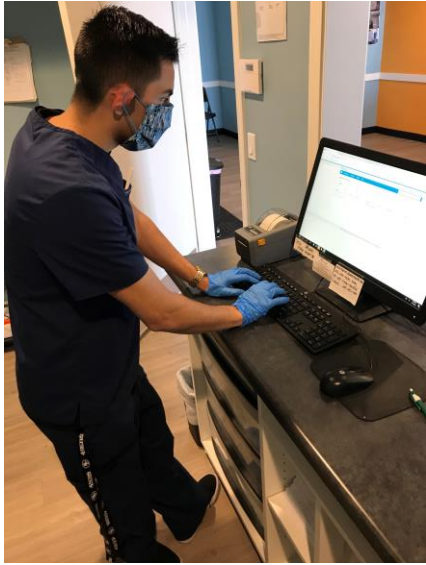
- Discontinue breath alcohol testing until a vaccine/treatment is developed and widely distributed

- Increase cleaning and sanitation of the Patient Care Centers focusing on high touch areas such as door handles, counters, sinks, and toilets

- Ensure proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves and masks for staff

- Increase hand washing for staff and clients

- Limit the care center to the number of clients that can be accommodated by spacing 6 feet apart

- Use a virtual waiting by instructing clients text or call upon arrival and wait in car until notified (see slides 9 and 10)

- Maintain physical distances of 6 feet (i.e., spread waiting room chairs 6 feet apart)

- Require the use of cloth face covering for clients

How to Safely Administer Drug Testing in a Patient Care Center

- Patients and staff only – no visitors allowed

- Monitor staff temperature (take temperature before and after shift) and symptoms

- Post door signage for clients to screen themselves for COVID-19 to eliminate those at risk from entering the facility (see slide 11)

- Conduct client screening via questionnaire before performing any close contact procedures

- Notify patients of least busy times

- Manage testing schedule to promote physical distancing

- Provide staff with Essential Critical Infrastructure letter.

Check-in by Text Messaging to Ensure Physical Distancing when Possible

PLEASE READ BEFORE ENTERING:

Please return to your vehicle and text **XXX-XXX-XXXX** that you are here and ready to test.

You will receive a verification text and another text when it is your turn to enter the facility.

If you do not have a phone, please enter the lobby, let staff know that you do not have a phone, what vehicle you are driving and where it is parked. Then return to your vehicle. We will place you in line and will come out and notify you when it is your turn to enter the facility.

You MUST wear a mask when entering the facility.

Check-in by Phone to Ensure Physical Distancing when Possible

PLEASE READ BEFORE ENTERING:

Please return to your vehicle and call **XXX-XXX-XXXX** that you are here and ready to test.

You will receive a call when it is your turn to enter the facility.

If you do not have a phone, please enter the lobby, let staff know that you do not have a phone, what vehicle you are driving and where it is parked. Then return to your vehicle. We will place you in line and will come out and notify you when it is your turn to enter the facility.

You MUST wear a mask when entering the facility

Monitor Patient Temperature & Symptoms

PLEASE READ BEFORE ENTERING

Is there any reason you have been asked to self-quarantine or isolate?

Have you had any contact with any Persons Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 within the last14 days OR with anyone with known COVID-19?

Do you have any symptoms of a COVID-19 infection (i.e. cough, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea)?

If you answered "YES" to any of the above questions:

DO NOT enter the facility.

You must **IMMEDIATELY CALL YOUR CASE WORKER** and let them know the reason you could not test today.

If you DO NOT call your Case Worker, you are considered a "NO SHOW" and it will be reported to your Case Worker and/or your Judge.

We appreciate you following these instructions for the safety of our staff and other clients.

What do to when someone has COVID-19

When someone reports to a TPA and indicates they have COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19, we will follow the procedures outlined below:

- Ask the client to leave immediately

- Have any other clients in the collection center leave the facility and excuse their tests

- Close the location for the remainder of the day and conduct a deep clean

- Excuse any additional clients that report to the facility for testing

- Notify the case manager(s) of the affected client and any other clients that were excused

When we are notified, at a later date, that someone has been to a location and since has tested positive for COVID-19 we will follow CDC guidelines for critical workers exposed to COVID-19

- Monitor employees' temperatures; as long as they do not have a fever or other symptoms, continue to report to work

- Have employees wear a mask

- Keep physical distance from others

- Disinfect and clean workspaces, focusing on high touch areas

How to Safely Administer an Oral Collection in the Field

- Collector or Case Worker verifies the client does not have any signs of COVID-19 prior to the collection event

- Collector arrives at the agreed upon collection location

- Collector, wearing PPE (gloves, eye protection, and mask), maintaining physical distancing, verifies the patient's identity, and provides patient with oral fluid testing device, any paperwork, including the tamper seal

- Collector observes patient provide sample while maintaining physical distancing

- Client writes name on the collection vial, places the specimen in the tube, seals the specimen, completes any required paperwork, and initials the tamper seal

- Client hands the specimen and paperwork to the collector and the collector completes the order

- Collector places the specimen and paperwork in a specimen bag and then into a lab package awaiting transport to the laboratory

- Once the collections are completed for the day, the collector ships all specimens to the laboratory

CDC Guidance for Critical Workers Exposed to COVID-19

Pre-Screen:
- Employers should measure the employee's temperature and assess symptoms prior to them starting work.
- Ideally, temperature checks should happen before the individual enters the facility.

Regular Monitoring:
- As long as the employee doesn't have a temperature or symptoms, they should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer's occupational health program.

Wear a Mask:
- The employee should wear a face mask at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure.
- Employers can issue facemasks or can approve employees' supplied cloth face coverings in the event of shortages.

Physical Distance:
- The employee should maintain 6 feet and practice social distancing as work duties permit in the workplace.

Disinfect and Clean Workspaces:
- Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment routinely.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/critical-workers-implementing-safety-practices.pdf

Coming Soon!

Averhealth will be switching to UPS as our courier. We will be reaching out to each location to coordinate in the coming weeks.

Benefits:

- A narrower pickup window and later pickups throughout the state
- Samples arrive at the laboratory earlier to help improve turnaround time
- Improved package tracking to help monitor that packages are shipped timely

averhealth

Client List Review

- Case worker should review and update their client list
- Case workers should review who has been calling the message line using the Notification Compliance report
  - Set the date for the last two weeks
  - Indicate # of No Calls: to 2
  - Output will display the number of times the client has not call the message line in the last 15 days
- Case workers should reach out to all clients who have stopped calling the message line

Dashboard Setup Enhancement

Setting up your dashboard preferences is now easier to do.

Questions and Additional Information

MDHHS Customer Service
MichiganDHHS@averhealth.com
(866) 246-1321