

An Equity Lens: COVID-19 and Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations





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Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Racial/Ethnic Minorities in Michigan



Higher rates of comorbidities put minorities at higher risk



Marginalized racial/ethnic communities are at higher risk for socioeconomic and political disadvantage



Historical issues of trust & in disaster or crisis response

COVID: A Cross- Sector Issue



Collaboration: Federal role



Collaboration: State role



Collaboration: Local role



SARAH LYON CALLO

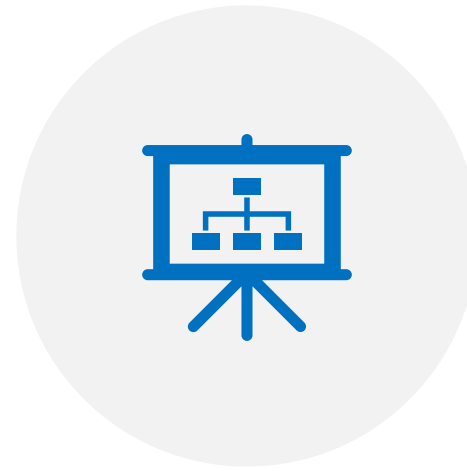
Director of Bureau of Epidemiology and Population Health

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Confirmed Cases and Demographic Breakdown in Michigan



9,334 CASES AND 337 DEATHS AS OF
APRIL 1, 2020



COLLECT DEMOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION AND REPORT COVID-19
CASES BY RACE & ETHNICITY

Experts recommend everyone take the following precautions to prevent transmission of the new coronavirus:



AVOID CLOSE CONTACT—MEANING TO STAY WITHIN ABOUT SIX FEET OF OTHERS



WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER THOROUGHLY AND OFTEN



USE ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER WHEN SOAP AND WATER AREN'T UNAVAILABLE



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH



HEALTHY PEOPLE DO NOT NEED TO ROUTINELY WEAR FACE MASKS TO PREVENT INFECTION



GET THE FLU VACCINE. OLDER PEOPLE SHOULD GET THE PNEUMONIA VACCINE

Preventative Alternatives for R/E Minorities

Proper use and dilution of bleach

What to do if you do not have hand sanitizer or other supplies?

What to do if you have been exposed?

How to prevent transmission in households with multiple generations?

Equity Approach in Testing and Treatment

Status

- The hardest hit counties include: Detroit City, Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw.

Uninsured

- Adults, low-income individuals and people of color are at greater risk of being uninsured.
- If uninsured:
Local health department (LHD)



ELIZABETH HERTEL

Chief Deputy Director for Administration

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Equity Approach in Unemployment



Executive Order 2020-10: temporarily expands eligibility for unemployment benefits, expanded to self-employed and low-wage workers



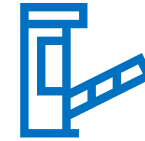
Michigan small businesses have the ability to apply for low-interest loans



16.2% of Hispanic workers and 19.7% of black Americans are able to work from home, while about 30% of whites can



Foregoing a paycheck, without access to paid sick leave, means people have less money to buy food, pay bills, and other essentials



Governor Whitmer has also requested Unemployment Insurance Assistance and Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programming assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which have not yet been approved

Infectious Disease Toolkit for Continuums of Care:

Preventing & Managing the Spread
of Infectious Disease for People
Experiencing Homelessness



Equity Approach in Housing/Homelessness

- HUD [Certified Housing Counselors](#) for **mortgage and help paying the mortgage/rent** – 1-800-569-4287. Also direct questions about FHA Mortgage Hardship Forbearance which is an option for those who are unable to make their monthly mortgage payment due to COVID-19, or have those individuals reach out directly to their mortgage servicer.
- [Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed an executive order today, temporarily suspending evictions.](#)
- Homelessness amongst the most vulnerable to coronavirus.

Equity Approach in Transportation



The operators of public buses in Metro Detroit and other areas throughout the state are waiving fares for riders



Amtrak has suspended passenger rail service.



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued an executive order to exempt from seasonal weight restrictions trucks hauling food and vital supplies for relief efforts



On 3/13/20, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration expanded eligibility of federal assistance and is available under FTA's Emergency Relief Program to help transit agencies respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) in states where the Governor has declared an emergency



The transportation industry is seeing dramatic reductions in ridership



PHIL CHASE

**Assistant Director, Office of Health and Nutrition
Services**

Michigan Department of Education

Equity Approach in Education



Governor Whitmer's Executive Orders 2020-5, 2020-11 and 2020-21 mandated closure of all elementary and secondary school buildings



If technology is needed for a student with a disability to access an educational activity, the needed technology and support must be provided by the district at no charge to the student



The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) requested and received a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to serve non-congregate meals under the unanticipated school closure provision of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)



The Michigan Department of Education is encouraging providers to remain available to address the mental health needs of students during school closure



There is no mechanism to earn instructional time during a period of mandated school closure. **Supplemental** virtual learning opportunities are available for all students



Gov. Whitmer is expected to sign Executive Order closing Michigan schools for the remainder of the school year.



DEBRA PINALS, M.D.

**Medical Director for Behavioral Health
and Forensic Programs**

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Equity in Mental and Emotional Health



Trump approved Michigan's Disaster Declaration request, making Michigan eligible for funding for The Counseling Program for Michiganders whose mental health has been impacted by the spread of COVID-19



Some immigrant and refugee communities fled their home environment due to high levels of trauma. This crisis can reactivate people's traumatic experiences



Immigrant and Prison Health are at increased risk due to denial of healthcare. As of 3/23/20, WHO/Europe published interim guidance on how to deal with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in **prisons** and other places of **detention**, entitled "Preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention"



Increased number of ICE investigations in many Michigan counties put undocumented immigrants working without official work exception and in fear of seeking assistance



Stress can challenge our physical health and our immune system

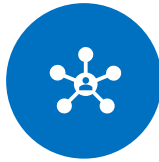
Message of Hope – Reducing Stress



Seek medical help if any medical or mental health symptoms worsen, and make sure there is access to medications for people with chronic health conditions.



Identify structures and schedules that can be put in place across a household.



Stay connected to public health announcements but allow families to turn off media and focus on other things.



Address feelings of helplessness.



Situation can lead to stress and anxiety, but we are all in this together.



Open discussions might help people support each other.



Access resources outside the family system.



People should stay away from alcohol and drugs as a mean to reduce stress and anxiety.

The “4 Cs” – Practices To Embed Equity Into Responses To COVID-19



Center Community: Let us not forget the importance of community. Let us find ways to continue to be guided by and rooted in our cultural knowledge and wisdom; let us remember our collective responsibility to care for those in most need; and let us choose compassion over fear.



Care for Self and Others: Be mindful of the negative impact of stockpiling. Fear and uncertainty can easily lead to taking more than we need; however, the result is that many others will be without.



Challenge Bias and Racism: Remember that viruses don't discriminate, and neither should we. We are all on edge and concerned. That does not excuse violence or prejudice.



Continue Pushing for Systems Change: We have already seen action to eliminate co-pays on COVID-19 tests. Many cities and states across the country are pushing for moratoriums on evictions, the shut-off of utilities, and the pay back of student loans during this time. Let us work together to continue creating systems that heal, rather than harm.

PSAs and Print Ads

- Print
- Radio
- Social Platforms
- Digital

 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Sponsored - 

We can all do our part to slow the spread of coronavirus. How? By going out only when necessary and keeping our distance.

STAY HOME. STAY SAFE.  STAY HOME. STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES. MICHIGAN.GOV/CORONAVIRUS



MICHIGAN.GOV/CORONAVIRUS
Stop Coronavirus
Protect yourself and others.

[Learn More](#)

WE ALL NEED TO DO OUR PART.
How you can slow the spread of COVID-19.

 Wash hands frequently

 Cover your cough

 Don't touch your face

 Stay home

 If you must go out, keep your distance from others

Protect those at the highest risk for getting severely ill: the elderly and those with chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, COPD or those with compromised immune systems. If you think you may have symptoms of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider first.

Get the facts. Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.

 **MDHHS**
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

VIRUSES DON'T DISCRIMINATE, AND NEITHER SHOULD WE

COVID-19 & STIGMA



COVID-19 doesn't recognize race, nationality, or ethnicity.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) does not target people from specific populations, ethnicities, or racial backgrounds.



Wearing a mask does not mean a person is ill.

People wear masks for a variety of reasons, including to avoid pollen and air pollution and for cultural and social reasons. Be careful not to judge someone for wearing a mask or assume they are sick.



You can interrupt stigma. Start by sharing accurate information.

Avoid spreading misinformation. Stay informed through reputable, trusted sources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services: [Michigan.gov/coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus)



Speak up if you hear, see, or read misinformation or harassing comments.

Gently correct false information, and remind the speaker, prejudiced language and actions make us all less safe. If serious harassment occurs, consider reporting it to the Michigan State Police tip line, ([Michigan.gov/tipline](https://www.michigan.gov/tipline)).



Show compassion and support for those most closely impacted.

In schools and workplaces, create learning opportunities for students and staff that dispel racist and misinformed ideas. Listen to, acknowledge and, with permission, share the stories of people experiencing stigma, along with a message that bigotry is not acceptable in your community.

Adapted from Public Health — Seattle & King County
SDC 14-011-02504-001/0200



COVID-19 Resources

阻止病毒传播

帮助预防呼吸道病毒如 COVID-19 的传播。

避免与患病的人近距离接触。

咳嗽和打喷嚏时，用纸巾遮住口鼻，然后将纸巾扔进封闭的垃圾箱。

避免触碰自己的眼睛、鼻子和嘴巴。

生病时请留在家中，除非接受医疗救治。

经常用肥皂和水洗手，每次至少 20 秒钟。

对频繁接触的物体和表面进行清洁和消毒。

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详细信息请参见: www.cdc.gov/COVID19-ch
www.accesskent.com

DETENGA LA PROPAGACIÓN DE LOS MICROBIOS

Ayude a prevenir la propagación de enfermedades respiratorias como el COVID-19

Evite el contacto cercano con las personas enfermas.

Cúbrase la nariz y la boca con un pañuelo desechable al toser o estornudar y luego bótelos a la basura.

Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca.

Quédese en casa si está enfermo, excepto para buscar atención médica.

Lávese las manos frecuentemente con agua y jabón por al menos 20 segundos.

Limpie y desinfecte los objetos y las superficies que se tocan frecuentemente.

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[cdc.gov/COVID19-ep](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19-ep)
www.accesskent.com/health

كيفية منع انتشار الجراثيم

المساعدة في منع انتشار أمراض الجهاز التنفسي مثل COVID-19

تجنب التواجد مع الأشخاص المرضى.

غطي فمك عند السعال أو العطس بمنديل، ثم ارمي المنديل في القمامة.

تجنب لمس عيني، أنف، وفم.

اقل في المنزل عندما تكون مريضاً، إلا في حالة الحصول على رعاية طبية.

اغسل يديك بالصابون والماء لمدة ٢٠ ثانية على الأقل.

قم بتنظيف وتطهير باستمرار المناطق والأشياء من حولك.

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الحصول على معلومات أكثر: www.cdc.gov/COVID19
www.accesskent.com/health

Questions about COVID-10?

Questions About COVID-19?

MDHHS has launched several statewide platforms to answer questions about Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and to keep residents up to date as information continues to change rapidly during the outbreak.



Call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136, seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Email COVID19@michigan.gov 24/7. Emails will be answered seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Subscribe to e-newsletter updates at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.



Visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus for the latest news and information.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

Thank You

- Webinar is recorded and will be posted online
- We will post answers to questions after the webinar
- www.Michigan.gov/minorityhealth