



# GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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[www.gtchd.org](http://www.gtchd.org)

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## **For Immediate Release**

**April 8, 2020**

### **Grand Traverse County Health Department declares Emergency Order for essential businesses**

The Grand Traverse County Health Department is declaring Grand Traverse County Public Health Officer - Emergency Order (GT-2020-01), requiring screening and social distancing measures at open essential businesses and operations subject to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-21. The emergency order goes into effect on April 9, 2020 at 12:00am and remains in effect until April 30, 2020 at 11:59pm.

“Our community is depending on these essential workers and essential businesses to keep us going during this difficult time. I am making their safety and well-being a priority, which then protects those that need their services as well,” said Wendy Hirschenberger, Health Officer, Grand Traverse County Health Department. “We know that some of those workers still having to report to work are concerned for their health and safety. We need everyone’s help to get through this, including essential business owners. This declaration adds a layer of specificity for employers to ensure the safety of their employees that are supporting our community right now in conjunction with the Stay Home, Stay Safe executive order.”

For additional resources, visit the Grand Traverse County Health Department COVID-19 [website](#) or find business toolkit and guidelines [here](#). If you have further questions regarding the Grand Traverse County Public Health Officer - Emergency Order (GT-2020-01), you can call 231-995-6800.

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### **EMERGENCY ORDER (GRANDTRAVERSE2020-1) FOR CONTROL OF PANDEMIC**

#### **Required screening and social distancing measures at open businesses and operations subject to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-21**

This Emergency Order (GrandTraverse2020-1) is made pursuant to Section 2453 of the Public Health Code, being MCL 333.2453.

The Local Health Officer has determined that controls and procedures are necessary to reduce transmission of COVID-19 to protect the public health of Grand Traverse County and to insure the continuation of the availability of essential public health services based on the following:

- 1) A State of Emergency was declared March 10, 2020 with an Executive Order expanding the emergency declaration and declaring a State of Disaster on April 1, 2020 by Governor Whitmer and Michigan is under threat of a pandemic virus that has reached epidemic status in Michigan.
- 2) On April 2, 2020, an Emergency Order regarding the Governor's Executive Orders was issued by Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director, Robert Gordon, which declared COVID-19 an epidemic in the State of Michigan.
- 3) All Emergency Orders (also called "Executive Orders") of the Governor related to the Coronavirus and the Emergency Order of the MDHHS Director are incorporated herein by reference.
- 4) Coronavirus, which causes COVID-19, is a communicable disease and can be transmitted from person to person.
- 5) COVID-19 and its effects have been detected within Grand Traverse County, including multiple deaths and documented cases of community transmission.
- 6) U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourages "social distancing" measures. Social distancing is a conscious effort to reduce close contact between people to slow the community transmission of the virus.
- 7) In order to control and limit the spread of this communicable disease, it is necessary to prevent infected people from coming into contact with uninfected people. It is also imperative that critical infrastructure workers (hereinafter "worker" or "workers") be protected.
- 8) COVID-19 transmission is possible even though the infected person has no symptoms and is unaware of the infection.
- 9) Although healthcare workers and their employers are exempt from compliance with Part 1, Section b., Item ii in this Emergency Order, it is recommended that these parties reference the guidance issued in the Memorandum to Health Care Providers dated March



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20, 2020 as well as any subsequent guidance from Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Chief Medical Executive of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

**It is hereby ordered** that businesses and operations remaining open under EO 2020-21 **must** only be conducting operations that require employees to leave their homes or places of residence for functions that are necessary to sustain or protect life or to conduct minimum basic operations as defined by EO 2020-21 and **must** take the following actions:

- 1) Develop and implement a daily screening program for all staff upon, or just prior to, reporting to work sites.
  - a) The screening procedures must include the following assessments:
    - i) Whether the worker has COVID-19 symptoms including, but not limited to: fever, cough (excluding chronic cough due to known medical reason), shortness of breath, sore throat, and/or diarrhea. When a touchless thermometer is available, a temperature check is strongly recommended in lieu of verbal confirmation. However, in the presence of a shortage of thermometers, employees may self-report temperature.
    - ii) Whether the worker had any close contact in the last 14 days with someone with a diagnosis of COVID-19. "Close contact" means someone previously designated as a "close contact" by the local health department during a case investigation, a household member, or someone within 6 feet for 10 minutes or longer.
    - iii) Whether the worker has engaged in any activity or travel (international or outside of Michigan) within the last 14 days which fails to comply with Executive Order 2020-21 (COVID-19)
    - iv) Whether the worker has been directed or told by the local health department or their healthcare provider to self-isolate or self-quarantine.
  - b) Any "yes" response to the screening questions above requires the individual to be excluded from work:
    - i) Until at least 72 hours has passed where the worker has no fever (that is three full days of no fever without use of medicine that reduces fevers) AND other symptoms have improved (for example, when the worker's cough and shortness of breath have improved) AND at least 7 days have passed since any symptoms first appeared.
    - ii) Until at least 14 days have passed where there has not been any close contact with a diagnosed case of COVID-19.



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- iii) Until at least 14 days have passed following travel—unless that travel was due to commuting from a home location outside of Michigan. Commuting is defined as traveling a distance between one’s home and work on a regular basis.
- c) Exemptions
  - i) First responders, healthcare workers, law enforcement, EMS, health-related transportation workers and other essential health workers are exempt from Part 1, Section b., Item ii.
  - ii) Essential workers engaged in travel related to supply chain and critical infrastructure/movement are exempt from Part 1, Section b., Item iii.
  - iii) Nothing in this order shall limit the operations of first responders, health care institutions, public health functions, pharmacies and other entities that are involved in the mitigation of risk during this pandemic.
- 2) Develop and implement a written plan to enable social distancing within the facility. This includes, but is not limited to, restricting the capacity inside of the building, ensuring at least 6 feet of space from another person for employees working in shared spaces and customers waiting for services inside or outside of the business, the use of signs, contact barriers, entrance limits, and specialized hours. This plan must be provided to a Health Department official upon demand.
- 3) Publish this order at all facility entrances so that it is visible to all employees and customers.
- 4) This Emergency Order shall be enforced as provided by law and violations of this Emergency Order shall be subject to any penalty as provided by law, including, but not limited to misdemeanor penalties as provided in MCL 333.2443 that includes up to 180 days in jail and/or a fine of up to \$200.

This Emergency Order shall become effective on **April 9, 2020 at 12:00 am** and shall be effective until **April 30, 2020 at 11:59 pm**.

Wendy Hirschenberger, MPH, Health Officer  
Grand Traverse County Health Department

April 8, 2020

Date