



# Plymouth PULSE

March 20, 2020 Update

City of Plymouth • 201 S. Main St. Plymouth, MI 48170 • 734-453-1234 • <http://plymouthmi.gov>

## The More Things Change, the More More They Stay the Same

Yes, things look a bit different these days, but one thing has not changed: The City of Plymouth's commitment to providing excellent service to residents and visitors. We've taken a number of steps to help maintain social distancing, while staying connected with our residents. Here's how.

All forms, applications and information statements are available online at <http://plymouthmi.gov>. Just click the *Forms and Documents* button on the left side of our home page. In addition, we've placed a self-serve kiosk in the Church St. vestibule at City Hall. There, you can find everything from Freedom of Information request forms to block party applications. Forms for each department are in color-coded files to make them easier to find.

*We are working on a process that will allow us to conduct board and commission meetings online. Stay tuned!*

There's a drop box where you can place forms, payments and any other correspondence. We will mail receipts for payments. If you can't find what you need, or if you need to speak to someone in person, you may use one of the two phones in the vestibule – one to be connected to police dispatch and one to speak to someone in City Hall. We will be happy to come out to speak to you – from six feet away! And please don't hesitate to call or email us from your home if you have questions. Below is some contact information you may need.

Department	Phone	Department Head Email
Department of Municipal Services	734-453-7737	cporman@plymouthmi.gov
Downtown Development Authority	734-455-1453	abruscato@plymouthmi.gov
Police Dispatch	734-453-8600	(offsite)
Recreation	734-455-6620	sanderson@plymouthmi.gov
City Hall	734-453-1234	
	City Hall Extensions	
Assessing	252	sglio@plymouthmi.gov
City Manager	203	psincock@plymouthmi.gov
City Clerk	234	mbrodie@plymouthmi.gov
Community Development (Building)	232	jbuzuvis@plymouthmi.gov
Fire Department (Non-Emergency)	280	jdavison@ci.northville.mi.us
Finance	209	jscanlon@plymouthmi.gov
Police Non-Emergency	219	acox@plymouthmi.gov
Treasurer	202	mfarris@plymouthmi.gov

# Critical Shortage of Blood! Please Donate!

The American Red Cross is reporting a critical shortage of blood. While potential donors may be afraid it is unsafe to attend a blood drive, Dr. Robertson Davenport, Director of Transfusion Medicine at the University of Michigan, said that fear is unfounded. "We are facing a blood crisis," he said. "Donors are just not showing up to collection centers. This is entirely unnecessary."

The Red Cross has provided the following information about the steps they are taking to ensure safety for donors.

## Red Cross Donation Safety Protocols

The top priority of the Red Cross is the safety of our donors, volunteers, employees and blood recipients, and we are committed to transparency with the American public during this evolving public health emergency. There are no data or evidence that this coronavirus can be transmissible by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported cases worldwide of transmissions for any respiratory virus including this coronavirus.

Donating blood is a safe process and people should not hesitate to give or receive blood, platelets, or AB Elite plasma. The Red Cross only collects blood from individuals who are healthy and feeling well at the time of donation – and who meet other eligibility requirements.

At each blood drive or donation center, Red Cross employees follow thorough safety protocols, including:

- Wearing gloves and changing them often
- Wiping down donor-touched areas after every collection
- Using sterile collection sets for every donation
- Preparing the arm for donation with aseptic scrub
- Conducting donor mini physicals to ensure donors are healthy and well on day of donation
- Enhanced disinfecting of equipment
- Providing hand sanitizer for use before entering and throughout the donation appointment
- Temperature checks before presenting donors enter the blood drive or donation center
- Spacing beds, where possible, to follow social distancing practices between donors

To ensure our staff are healthy each day, we have implemented standard staff health assessments prior to all blood drives.

Finally, only eligible and healthy people are allowed to give blood.

These mitigation measures will help ensure blood recipient safety, as well as staff and donor safety in reducing contact with those who may potentially have this respiratory infection.



*Governor Gretchen Whitmer Donating Blood*

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## *Upcoming Blood Drives*

*Holiday Inn Express, 15100 Beck Rd., Plymouth  
Wednesday, March 25 from 11:00 a.m. -4:45 p.m.*

*Hilton Garden Inn, 14600 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth  
Wednesday March 25 from 11:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.  
Thursday, March 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

**Please register online at [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) or call Diane at 313-549-7052 to schedule an appointment**

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# Managing Anxiety and Stress During the Pandemic

COVID 19. Quarantine. Social Distancing. Social Isolation. What on earth is going on?

Never before have we had to cope with the reality that confronts us today, and hopefully we never will again. In the meantime, though, some of us might need a little advice. The experts at Eastern Michigan University and The University of Michigan Mental Health have put together some tips for coping.

## Coping with COVID-19 Related Stress

 <p><b>Pay Attention to Your Reactions:</b> It is normal to experience stress, anger, anxiety, and fear during a crisis. Being aware of your reactions can help you decide what you need to cope with these feelings.</p>	<p><b>Be Kind to Each Other:</b> Remember that COVID-19 doesn't recognize race, nationality, or ethnicity. Wearing a mask does not mean a person is ill. Being compassionate is the best thing we can do for ourselves and our communities.</p>
<p><b>Take a Break + Relax:</b> There is life outside of the current crisis. Make sure to schedule a break and relax or do things you enjoy such as meditation, listening to music, coloring, etc. Different coping strategies work for different people, use what has worked for you in previous times of stress.</p>	 <p><b>Maintain a Healthy Routine:</b> It is important to maintain your regular schedule for sleeping, eating, studying, working, socializing, etc. Don't use smoking, alcohol, or other drugs to cope with your stress. (This may reduce your body's capacity to heal itself).</p>
 <p><b>Limit Information:</b> Too much information leads to overload and more stress, so try to limit your exposure to news and information regarding the virus. Choose a reputable and non-sensational news source such as the CDC.</p>	<p><b>Connect with Others:</b> When in distress, you may feel lonely and isolated in what you are going through. You can benefit from connection with others where you can provide and receive support from each other. Talk to your friends and family over social media or phone.</p>

 Counseling and Psychological Services  
Campus Wellness Center  
1075 N. Huron River Dr.  
734-487-1118  
[www.emich.edu/caps](http://www.emich.edu/caps)

## Tips from the University of Michigan's [Health Blog](#)

If you're feeling helpless, think of things you CAN do.

- *Give blood*
- *Donate to a food bank*
- *Help people who shouldn't leave home*
- *Set up technology for those who need to stay home*
- *Help young children in need*
- *Share information responsibly*
- *Connect with nature*
- *Use music, art and exercise as a distraction*
- *Help yourself and others practice patience, kindness and understanding*

## More Helpful Information

[Taking Care of your Behavioral Health During an Infectious Disease Outbreak](#) from SAMHSA.gov

[Managing Stress and Anxiety](#) from CDC.gov

SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746

# United States<sup>®</sup> Census 2020

Now, more than ever, we need to make sure every person in the City of Plymouth is counted in the 2020 Census. The results of the Census will affect federal funding allocated to our community **for the next decade.**

We can never know what the future holds, but we do know that state and federal funding to help communities cope with emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic is typically calculated according to a jurisdiction's population. Accurate census numbers will help ensure that Plymouth receives the appropriate amount of state and federal funding for this and other programs, such as the student lunch program and community development block grants.

In addition, if the census shows that our population exceeds 10,000 residents, which we believe is the case, the City of Plymouth stands to receive an increase in state revenue sharing and road construction funds.

Responding to the Census is easy to do – there are only nine questions to answer for the head of household and seven questions for each additional person residing in the home.

A sample census form can be viewed [here](#). Residents will soon receive a letter from the Census Bureau with information about responding online, by phone or by mail. From May through July 2020, Census takers will be visiting homes that haven't responded to make sure everyone is counted.

If you have any questions about the Census or its importance, please contact Greta Bolhuis at 734-453-1234 ext. 224. Additional information is available at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov)

Now, more than ever, the City of Plymouth needs you. Please do your part and complete your census forms today.

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*You should be receiving your 2020 Census invitation in the mail this week. You will be given an ID number to use for responding online. If you don't respond online, the U.S. Census Bureau will mail you a paper copy in a few to complete and mail in. If you don't respond to either request, you will be visited by a Census Bureau interviewer. If you need help completing your questionnaire, please call 1-844-330-2020.*

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# Financial Help for Small Businesses in Michigan

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved her request for a statewide Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) declaration, opening the opportunity to small businesses to access low-interest loans from the SBA.

“This designation unlocks critical financial resources for small businesses across the state impacted by the tough, but necessary steps we have taken to mitigate the spread of coronavirus here in Michigan,” Whitmer said. “While access to these loans is vital, we are continuing to look at every resource available to support our businesses, communities and entrepreneurs around the state impacted by coronavirus.”

The EIDL designation means that Michigan small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and nonprofits that have suffered substantial economic losses as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak will now have the ability to apply for low-interest loans as part of \$1 billion in funding made available to the SBA by Congress earlier this month.

The application for disaster loan assistance is available at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>. For businesses looking for more information on how to apply for an SBA EIDL loan or whether it is something they should consider, visit [michiganbusiness.org/covid19](http://michiganbusiness.org/covid19).

“Making Economic Injury Disaster Loans available in Michigan is the first step in helping small businesses recover,” said J.D. Collins, State Director of the Michigan SBDC. “Our team is ready and available to help businesses evaluate this loan program and access support for their long-term success.”

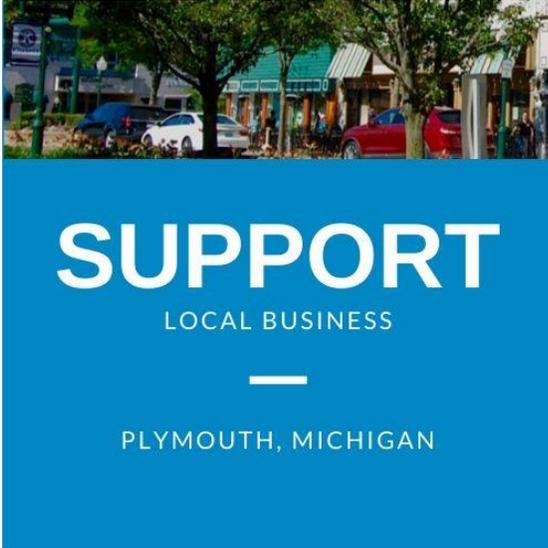
Today’s EIDL declaration by the SBA adds to the growing number of resources available to small businesses in Michigan negatively impacted by COVID-19, including the [Michigan Small Business Relief Program](#), authorized by the Michigan Strategic Fund, which will provide more than \$20 million in grants and loans to support businesses.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s (MEDC) call center stands ready to support businesses with questions about assistance available to small business through existing state programs by calling 888.522.0103. The Michigan Small Business Development Center can also provide resources. Visit their website <https://sbdcmichigan.org/small-business-covid19/> for additional information.

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Plymouth Community United Way has started a COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide basic needs for Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County residents who are negatively impacted by the virus. Please consider donating to COVID-19 Relief Fund. visit [www.plymouthunitedway.org/COVID-19-Relief-Fund](http://www.plymouthunitedway.org/COVID-19-Relief-Fund) or call (734) 453-6879 for more information.

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Please visit <http://downtownplymouth.org> or our Facebook page for the status of business operations downtown.



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## Department of Municipal Services Reminders

Drop-off disposal of cardboard and recycling is available at our Municipal Services Yard at 1231 Goldsmith. Please honk and wave to notify office staff. No need to come in the office.

Curbside compost collection will begin the week of April 5

If you wish to purchase special refuse tags for household items, please call ahead so we can limit in-person transactions.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 734-453-7737.

## Flushable Wipes are Not Flushable!

This photo, borrowed from Hutchinson, Minnesota shows what happens when people use 'flushable' wipes.

These blockages in the sanitary sewer system can cause big problems in your home – and in your neighbor's.

Sewage that can't move forward moves backward – back into homes. And that's not a pretty sight.

For the sake of everyone, please flush only toilet paper.



*Photo by Terry Davis at leader.com*