



# Plymouth PULSE

March 24, 2020 Update

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

## “To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often”

This Winston Churchill quote explains the City of Plymouth’s pursuit to continue to provide excellent customer service in these unprecedented times. Every day we face new challenges, and every day we seek to meet these challenges in a way that benefits our residents and visitors. Here are a few things that came up today:

- The City of Plymouth has been designated as a provider of essential services, and therefore staff will continue to work through Governor Whitmer’s executive order for suspending unnecessary activities. Multiple protections have been put in to help keep them safe and healthy, including rotating shifts. Please be patient if your phone call isn’t answered immediately, as is our practice. There may be only one person in the office at a time, and that person may be on another phone call. Don’t hesitate to leave a voice mail or send an email if you have a question.
- Our solid waste contractor Republic Services informed us that their Materials Recovery Center is currently closed due to a personnel issue related to COVID-19. Until further notice, curbside recycling will be collected but not processed.
- Until April 17, we will not be collecting penalties for outstanding water bills. This will allow residents to wait until after the Governor’s executive order expires if they’d like to pay their bills in person. Online payments will be accepted throughout the emergency period.
- The City of Plymouth Police Department has suspended the prohibition of overnight street parking until April 14 to accommodate those who temporarily have extra cars due to students or extended family being in the home.
- All board and commission meetings will be online in a format that will allow real-time participation from citizens. To receive agenda packets and instructions on how to participate, sign up at [plymouthmi.gov/notifyme](http://plymouthmi.gov/notifyme) and be sure to check the meeting agenda and minutes box.
- The Business Keyholder module on the City of Plymouth’s website has been activated. It may be accessed from the Police Online Services button on the homepage (<http://plymouthmi.gov>) or directly at <https://www.frontlinepss.com/plymouthmi>. This module allows business owners to securely enter all their keyholder contact information so that we can notify them of any emergencies or open doors at their establishments, should we find any. This is actually very common when we respond to alarm runs or when we are simply doing business checks. On some occasions, we are unable to secure a door and without keyholder information we are forced to leave it unsecured.



# SUPPORT

LOCAL BUSINESS

PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

Please see the current [list of businesses that remain open](#) on the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority's website

<http://downtownplymouth.org>

Is it safe to get carryout food? North Carolina State University Extension has developed the flyer below to help answer that question.

## COVID-19 AND FOOD SAFETY FAQ IS CORONAVIRUS A CONCERN WITH TAKEOUT?

CDC, FDA and USDA are not aware of any reports at this time that suggest COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging. Current evidence shows the biggest risk of transmission of COVID-19 is being around individuals who are symptomatic (and to a lesser extent, infected but not showing symptoms.) Food businesses should be following employee health policies and health department recommendations to keep these individuals home.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF TAKEOUT OR DRIVE-THRU FOOD?

- There is no current indication that takeout or drive-thru meals will increase illness.
- This option is a good risk management choice, especially for high risk and elderly groups because it helps maintain social distancing and reduces the number of touch points.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF FOOD DELIVERED TO HOME?

- Similar to takeout, food delivery helps maintain social distancing and reduces the number of touch points between preparation and serving of food.
- Many delivery programs have also instituted no touch/no interaction options, which further reduces risk.

### CAN I GET COVID-19 FROM TOUCHING FOOD OR PACKAGING EXPOSED TO CORONAVIRUS?

- The risk of transfer of viruses is very low, based on current research.
- To further minimize risk, handling food packaging should be followed by handwashing and/or using hand sanitizer.

### WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUR BODY IF YOU DO INGEST CORONAVIRUS THROUGH FOOD?

- Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread from person-to-person through respiratory droplets. It may be possible for a person to get COVID-19 by touching a contaminated surface or object and then touching their mouth, eyes, or nose, but this is not thought to be the major way the virus is transmitted.
- Currently, there is no evidence to support transmission of the virus directly by eating food that might inadvertently contain virus.
- In commercial food production, processing, and preparation, there are many best practices that are routinely followed as per federal, state, and local regulations. These are all designed to prevent foods from becoming contaminated with microbes from the environment, including viruses.
- The best thing a consumer can do is to continue using good food safety practices before preparing or eating food, like always washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after using the restroom, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

NC STATE

EXTENSION

Stay informed: [go.ncsu.edu/covid-19](https://go.ncsu.edu/covid-19)

Updated March 23, 2020



NC STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Michigan Department of Health and Human Services FAQ

*Please call the Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 517-335-7858*

*if you have any questions that aren't answered in this FAQ*

**Q: Does in-person work that is essential to sustain or protect human life also include in-person work to prevent severe psychological harm?**

A: Yes

**Q: Are car dealerships open?**

A: Auto sales is closed, but auto repair and maintenance can remain open subject to the limitations in section 5 of Executive Order 2020-21.

**Q: Are childcare workers considered critical infrastructure employees?**

A: Childcare workers are considered critical infrastructure workers but only to the extent necessary to serve the children or dependents of critical infrastructure workers as defined in Executive Order 2020-21

**Q: How does this order impact my custody agreement?**

A: Individuals may also travel as required by law enforcement or a court order, including the transportation of children pursuant to a custody agreement under section 7 (b) (3) of this order. Court ordered parent child visits and caseworker visits continue but these visits must not always be in person. Alternatives including telephone and videoconference are acceptable. The only time that an in-person visit is required is when we believe that child safety is at stake.

**Q: Are people who repair homes considered critical infrastructure employees for the purposes of Executive Order 2020-21?**

In general, yes. Under the order, critical infrastructure workers include workers "who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences." To the extent your workers perform jobs that are necessary to the safety, sanitation, and operation of homes, they may be designated as critical infrastructure workers.

**Q: Are hotels and motels to remain open Executive Order 2020-21?**

A: In general, hotels and motels may remain open, but must limit functions and operations.

Under the order, workers at hotels and motels are critical infrastructure workers to the extent they "provide temporary or permanent housing for... shelter ... for ... otherwise needy individuals." For purposes of the order, the term "otherwise needy individuals" includes anyone residing in a hotel or motel at the time the order was issued or anyone seeking shelter during the current pandemic. Hotels and motels may also remain open to the extent they are used for COVID-19 mitigation and containment efforts and to serve critical infrastructure workers.

Hotels and motels may therefore remain open, but they may only engage in activities providing shelter and basic needs (such as carry-out/delivery/room-service food) and, in engaging in those activities, they must limit guest-to-guest, guest-to-staff, and staff-to-staff interactions as much as possible and must adopt all other mitigation measures required by section 5(c) of the order. They may not provide additional in-house amenities such as gyms, pools, spas, entertainment facilities, meetings rooms or like facilities, or provide in-house dining.

**Q: Is construction allowed under the executive order?**

A: Some limited forms of construction are permissible, including construction to maintain and improve essential public works like roads, bridges, the telecommunications infrastructure, and public health infrastructure. Construction workers may also undertake such projects as necessary to maintain and improve the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences. In addition, businesses may designate construction firms to provide necessary support to the work of the businesses' critical infrastructure workers. All construction work that is carried out while the order is in effect must be done in accordance with the mitigation measures required under section 5(c) of the order.

# Need Help? Willing and Able to Help?

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## Financial Help for Families

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 about donating or registering for services.

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## Financial Help for Small Businesses in Michigan

<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

[michiganbusiness.org/covid19](http://michiganbusiness.org/covid19).

[Michigan Small Business Relief Program](#),

<https://sbdcmichigan.org/small-business-covid19/>

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## Michigan Medicine Donations Needed

Weekdays from noon to 5:00 p.m. until further notice, the University of Michigan will open a drive-through donation site at its North Campus Research Complex, at the corner of Huron Parkway and Plymouth Road in Ann Arbor. Leaving home to donate protective gear to hospitals and other health organizations is permitted under the [Michigan executive order](#) that suspends non-essential operations. Trips to make such donations are exempted under the provision that allows volunteering for organizations that are serving individuals who need assistance as a result of the emergency.

### What to Donate

- Disposable face masks
- N95 masks, sometimes called respirators
- Eye protection including face shields & safety goggles
- Disposable gowns
- Disposable gloves, especially non-latex
- Disposable surgical caps
- Disposable foot covers
- Wipes: bleach or antimicrobial
- Hand sanitizer
- PAPRs and PAPR hoods
- Nasal testing swabs
- Viral testing kits

### What Not to Donate

At this time U-M is not accepting home-sewn reusable masks or 3-D printed ventilator parts, though the institution truly appreciates the offers it has received. A decision has not yet been made about whether to use non-medical grade DIY masks in healthcare facilities at this time. However, Michigan Medicine encourages those who are able and willing to make masks to do so and provide them to other individuals and organizations that are accepting them. Donations of other items such as medications, food, blankets, medical equipment or other supplies are **not needed at this time**. If that changes, an announcement will be made.