



To the Residents of the City of New Buffalo

Our City is still Open in a limited capacity. Each day it seems the Federal Government, the CDC and the State of Michigan issue new guidelines and Executive Orders urging safe practices to combat infection from COVID 19. These are risky times as we all face infection and the potential for life threatening illness. While the risk seems high, the steps we take now may slow the spread of the virus and preserve essential health care resources should they be needed in the future. Some City employees are prohibited from coming to work and others designated "essential" are ordered to continue working through the crisis including Streets, Water, Fire, Police and Parks. Office employees are splitting their schedules so no more than one worker is present at City Hall to process time sensitive payments and answer the phone on a restricted basis. The Water Department is limiting "in house" staffing to one employee per shift and, if necessary, water will be provided by the Township. This is a service the City can reciprocate by opening and isolating valves designed for events like this. Everything is being done to limit public exposure and maintain "social distancing." We all hope work will return to normal as soon as possible.

City meetings will continue in the near future. The Governor's Executive Orders severely restrict public meetings but allow for "virtual" meetings which the City is in the process of arranging through a program known as "Zoom" that will allow internet access and facilitate public comment through two (2) way communication. The City's Attorney is advising how best to accomplish the requirements of the Governor's Executive Orders. Future meetings will be noticed as public meetings in the normal places and details for virtual attendance will be fully explained. Any questions can be directed to the City Clerk at 269-469-1500.

Stay at Home. The Governor of Michigan has signed an order that directs all non-critical businesses to temporarily close, and for all Michiganders to stay home to avoid the spread of the coronavirus or stay at least six feet away from others if they must leave the house. This means Michigan's 10 million residents are asked to avoid all nonessential travel and remain at home.

Here are the exceptions to the order for which Michiganders are allowed to leave the house: taken from "What You Can and Can't Do Under Michigan's Stay at Home Order", Coronavirus, Fox 2, Detroit:

- Go to work if you are part of critical infrastructure workforce (details below)
- Engage in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking, running or cycling
- Perform tasks necessary to your health and safety, like going to the hospital or grocery store
- Care for a family member or family member's pet in another household
- Care for minors, dependents, the elderly, persons with disabilities or other vulnerable persons
- Visit an individual under the care of a health care facility or residential care facility, as permitted by that facility
- Attend legal proceedings or hearings for essential or emergency purposes
- Volunteer for businesses or operations that provide food, shelter and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or for people with disabilities
- Return home from outside of the state
- Leave Michigan for a home or residence elsewhere
- Travel between two residences in the state
- The transportation of children pursuant to a custody agreement and as required by law enforcement or court order
- Leave the house to buy food and other supplies, but you must secure supplies via delivery to the maximum extent possible

- Individuals may leave the home or place of residence to purchase groceries, take-out food, gasoline, needed medical supplies, and any other products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and basic operation of their residences

The Governor's order designates the following as critical infrastructure workers, meaning they are permitted to leave the house to go to work:

- Health care and public health workers
- Law enforcement, public safety and first responders
- Food and agriculture
- Energy
- Water and wastewater
- Transportation and logistics
- Public works
- Trash pick-up and disposal
- Communications and information technology, including news media
- Critical manufacturing
- Hazardous materials
- Financial services
- Chemical supply chains and safety
- Defense industrial base

The following are also considered critical infrastructure, but may be scaled down by their business or operations to only those deemed necessary to conduct minimum basic operations:

- Child care workers, but only to the extent necessary to serve the children or dependents of other critical infrastructure workers
- Workers at designated suppliers and distribution centers
- Workers in the insurance industry, but only to the extent that their work can't be done via phone or remotely
- Workers and volunteers that provide food, shelter and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or for people with disabilities
- Workers who perform critical labor union functions

You can [read the order in full here](#).

Enforcement. Our law enforcement is active pursuing individuals and companies not following the Governor's order. Any complaints regarding non-adherence to this order can be directed to the New Buffalo Police Department at 269-983-3060 which has discretion and authority to enforce the "Stay at Home" regulations.

Protect yourself and family. Stay home. Wash your hands regularly, especially after exposure to the public. Do not touch your face. Disinfect all flat surfaces, door knobs and light switches.

Useful Links:

Latest Michigan Data: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173---,00.html

Latest Indiana Data: <https://coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>

World Data: <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

Advice from a Doctor on the front line: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qwx3JMRTz8U>

Michigan Unemployment Benefits: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-523450--00.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery