

**EMERGENCY ORDER (2020-22) FOR CONTROL OF EPIDEMIC  
GATHERINGS AND EVENTS**

This Order is made pursuant to Section 2453 of the Public Health Code, being MCL 333.2453.

In response to the ongoing public health emergency and the risk posed by a resurgence of COVID-19, matters concerning the public health of the residents of Ingham County have been brought to the attention of the Ingham County Health Officer. The Local Health Officer has determined that controls are necessary to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and to protect the public's health in Ingham County based on the following facts:

- A communicable disease, novel Coronavirus, which causes COVID-19 has been identified and can be transmitted from person to person.
- In order to control and limit the spread of the novel Coronavirus, it is necessary to prevent infected people from coming into contact with uninfected people.
- The spread of COVID-19 can be reduced with cloth face coverings, social distancing, and staying home when sick.
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that individuals stay at least 6 feet from others who are not in the same household. Risk of COVID-19 transmission at a gathering or event increases as the size of the event or gathering increases.

**It is hereby ordered that:**

1. **Gatherings and events.** Social gatherings and organized events among persons not part of the same household are permitted only to the extent provided in this order. In all cases, organizers and venues must ensure that the gathering or event complies with this order, and that persons not part of the same household maintain six feet of distance from one another, including by designing the gathering or event to encourage and maintain social distancing. This section does not apply to an incidental gathering of persons in a shared space, including an airport, bus station, factory floor, restaurant, shopping mall, public pool, or workplace (although it does apply to social gatherings and organized events held in such places).
  - a. An indoor social gathering or indoor organized event of 10 people or fewer is permitted.
  - b. An indoor social gathering or indoor organized event of more than 10 and fewer than 500 people occurring at a non-residential venue is permitted only to the extent that the organizers and venue:
    1. In cases where the gathering or event occurs in a venue with fixed seating, limit attendance to 20% of seating capacity;
    2. Otherwise, limit attendance to 20 people per 1,000 square feet of venue space, including no more than 20 people per 1,000 square feet in each room;
    3. Consistent with Ingham County Emergency Order 2020-21, Facial Coverings, require individuals at the venue to wear a facial covering.
  - c. An outdoor social gathering or outdoor organized event of 100 people or fewer is permitted.
  - d. An outdoor social gathering or outdoor organized event of more than 100 and fewer than 1,000 people occurring at a non-residential venue is permitted only to the extent that the organizers and venue:
    1. In cases where the gathering or event occurs in a venue with fixed seating, limit attendance to 30% of seating capacity;
    2. Otherwise, limit attendance to 30 people per 1,000 square feet of event space, including no more than 30 people per 1,000 square feet in any distinct area within the event space.

2. **Exceptions.** Indoor gathering and event limitations imposed by this order do not apply to any of the following:
  - a. Aspects of training of law enforcement, correctional, medical, or first responder personnel not capable of being performed remotely;
  - b. Polling places.
  - c. Students in classroom settings or children in a daycare setting.
3. **Religious worship.** Consistent with prior guidance, neither a place of religious worship nor its owner is subject to penalty under section 5 of this order for allowing religious worship at such place. No individual is subject to penalty under section 5 of this order for engaging in religious worship at a place of religious worship.
4. Nothing in this order supersedes any other Ingham County emergency order. Emergency orders that further restrict gathering or event size beyond the limitations set forth in this order shall prevail where in direct conflict with this order.
5. Consistent with MCL 333.2261 and 764.15(1), willful violation of any emergency order constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or a fine of not more than \$200, or both. An individual may be arrested if violation occurs in the presence of a police officer, or the police officer has reasonable cause to believe individual has violated a rule or order.

This order takes effect immediately and will remain in effect until it is determined by the Ingham County Health Officer that the threat to the public's health and lives is no longer present.

This order may be revised as well as supplemented with specific procedures and orders in accordance with the Michigan Public Health Code.

Respectfully,



Linda Vail, Health Officer  
Ingham County Health Department

October 4, 2020

Date