



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 24, 2020

Lyndi Warner and Matt Johnson  
Public Information Officers  
pio@kalcounty.com  
269-373-5271 or 269-373-5270

## **Essential Services Remaining Open at Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department**

Kalamazoo, MI – To combat the spread of COVID-19, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department (HCS) is following Governor Whitmer’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” executive order 2020-21. Per the order and for at least the next three weeks, essential services that sustain and protect health and life will continue at HCS, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. No evening clinics will be held on Thursdays.

### **Essential Services Remaining Open at HCS include:**

- Area Agency on Aging Region IIIA: this includes the Information & Assistance Hotline at 269-373-5173 and the Long Term Care Ombudsman at 1-866-485-9393
- Clinic: by appointment only, limited STD testing and immunizations services. There will be no TB Tests including QFTs, titers or travel immunizations
- Environmental Health: Land, water, and wastewater, food safety, and laboratory services
- WIC: by appointment only
- Veterans Service Office: by appointment only
- Maternal Child Health: community workers and programs are available by telephone and email. Processing referrals continues.

Please be aware that calls from HCS employees may come from a number that says “private” or “blocked” in order to protect the privacy of employee’s personal numbers while they work remotely.

“Basic public health needs must continue for our residents in Kalamazoo County, even during this global pandemic, to protect the health of all,” stated Jim Rutherford, Health Officer. “The public should know if they are visiting our building there will be hand sanitizer available and social distancing in practice.”

### **Explanation of Executive Order 2020-21**

Governor Whitmer signed “Stay Home, Stay Safe” executive order 2020-21 on March 23. For at least the next three weeks, all Michigan businesses and operations must temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. All Michiganders must stay in their homes

---

## **HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

311 E. Alcott St. | Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Phone: 269.373.5200 | [www.kalcounty.com/hcs](http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs)

unless they are a part of that critical infrastructure workforce, engaged in an outdoor activity, or performing tasks necessary to the health and safety of themselves or their family, like going to the hospital or grocery store. Residents may read the full Stay Home, Stay Safe [executive order](#) and [summary](#), which includes specific instructions on what you can do and what you may not do. Information about the executive order and summary is also found at [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/).

### **COVID-19 Case Numbers**

Kalamazoo County reported three positive cases on March 23. Updates to the number of positive and negative cases received will happen at noon every day at [www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19.php](http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19.php). As of today, a fourth positive case has been reported.

### **Questions**

For employees or employers with questions regarding the Governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order 2020-21, call 517-335-7858.

For medical-related questions regarding COVID-19, the public or providers may call 269-373-5267, Sunday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. MDHHS has activated a hotline for community questions as well. Their hours are Sunday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 888-535-6136.

For questions regarding the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-9, owners may call Environmental Health Division staff at 269-373-5210.

For immediate emotional support or crisis intervention, call 269-381-HELP(4357). For information, and to get connected to resources available in your community, dial 2-1-1. Both of these free and confidential services are provided by Gryphon Place 24/7.

Information about the COVID-19 is rapidly changing. For general questions about COVID-19, call the state hotline at 1-888-535-6136 or the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department Hotline at 269-373-5200. For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>, <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>, and <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19.php>.

### **Prevention**

As a precaution, HCS is asking anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 to self-isolate for 14 days to avoid potentially exposing others. COVID-19 symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, people should:

- Wash their hands.
- Stay home when sick.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching their face.
- Disinfect commonly touched surfaces.
- Avoid shaking hands.
- Follow suggested guidelines for social distancing.

For social distancing, we recommend the following:

- Keep six feet between yourself and others when possible.
- Avoid public places at their busiest times.
- Work from home when possible.
- Cancel gatherings of more than 50 people as required by Michigan law. However, it is recommended gatherings not exceed 10 people.
- Limit travel.

People who are concerned that they may have COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider and **call ahead** before visiting any healthcare facility. Mildly ill people are encouraged to stay home and contact their healthcare provider by phone for guidance. If you feel well, you do not need to be tested. Testing is determined based on risk assessment.

**REMEMBER:** [Discrimination harms public health](#). People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get coronavirus than anyone else. Always [share accurate information](#) about a virus and how it spreads. It is important to remember that stigma and discrimination occur when people associate an infectious disease, such as COVID-19, with a population or nationality. COVID-19 does not target people from specific populations, ethnicities or racial background. Suspected discrimination can be [reported](#) to the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

###

Kalamazoo County Government  
Health & Community Services Department

 [Like Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services](#)  Follow us [@KzooHealth](#)