



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



March 17, 2020

NEWAYGO COUNTY COVID-19 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

TEXT: UPDATE: Changes to local government services during COVID-19. Click for more info (LINK ATTACHED)

EMAIL: UPDATE: Changes to local government services during COVID-19

NewaygoES is doing our best to keep up with rapidly developing and evolving situations and we will strive to be as timely and accurate as possible. Working together we will all be stronger after this event subsides.

For COVID-19 questions, please contact the State of Michigan toll-free hotline at 1-800-535-6136

In accordance with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-0011, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to provide essential protections to vulnerable Michiganders and this state's health care system and other critical infrastructure, the following actions are being taken to prevent assemblages of more than 50 people in a single indoor shared space:

Newaygo County Government:

- Effective, Wednesday, March 18, 2020, Newaygo County is restricting public access and requesting nonessential visits to be delayed until further notice.
- At this time, all County Offices will remain open and staffed. Staff will be available by phone during regular working hours. Please contact the Department directly via phone or access to the Newaygo County website to accomplish your business, if possible.
- On-site visits for critical business, such as tax payments, will be permitted.
- Anyone needing County services or who have a previously scheduled appointment should call the respective office before traveling to a County Building.
- All nonessential committee meetings, advisory board meetings, and trainings are cancelled for the next 30 days.
- If you choose to attend an essential public meeting you will be asked to follow the recommendation for "social spacing" and sit at least six feet apart, if possible.
- All county employees are under travel restrictions and will not be attending any nonessential work related functions outside the county.

Newaygo County Courthouse Update:

- Effective, Wednesday, March 18, 2020, Newaygo County Courthouse is closed to the public.
- All nonessential business visits shall be conducted through mail, email, and fax.

- If you believe your business is an essential or emergency matter, please contact each court directly via phone or access the Newaygo County Website. Judges and court staff are still available to timely evaluate and process essential court functions.
- Please contact each court directly via phone or access the Newaygo County Website. If you have any questions about a court date please contact the court your case is scheduled in.
- Please review the Court's LAO regarding closure for more details on essential services of the Court.

Veterans Affairs Department:

- Newaygo County is following Federal and State guidance to protect our veteran customers, as many of them fall into the high risk category. Veterans are encouraged to contact the department via phone or email to resolve questions. Claims are still being processed through the e-filing tools and case management software to package claims and view documents from the VA's office.

Animal Shelter:

Effective, Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the Newaygo County Animal Shelter will be closed to the Public. Staff will still be coming in to feed and care for the pets. Adoptions will be by appointment only. Please call 231-689-1867 and leave a detailed message. Staff will contact you to make an appointment. If you have a stray animal, please call first so a staff member can meet you outside. Please call 231-689-7020.

Parks:

- The Newaygo County Welcome Center is closed to the general public. All other operations will continue as normal. Campground reservations will still be accepted over the phone and online. Payments will only be accepted over the phone or vial mail.

Commission on Aging:

- The Newaygo County Commission on Aging is closed to the general public. All programs except Meals-on-wheels and critical, medical transportations have been stopped.

Taxes:

- 2017 delinquent taxes will be foreclosed if not paid on March 31, 2020. This is a court ordered judgment, and this date will not change due to the current health crisis. If you have questions about your delinquent taxes, we strongly encourage you to call the Treasurer's Office at 231.689.7230, and staff will be happy to assist you. Individuals are strongly encouraged to make payments on line at www.countyofnewaygo.com and select the "Make a Payment" tab. This tab can be used for dog license fees and delinquent tax payments. Please note there is an additional convenience fee of 2.5% from a third party provider for this service.

Jail:

All non-essential, non-mandated ancillary and educational programs will be suspended for the duration of the emergency. In order to reduce the amount of public traffic through the visitation area and to accommodate attorney's, public visitations will be suspended for the duration of the state of emergency. Inmates still will have the ability to participate in the home-visit function of the video visitation system, inmate phone system, and e-messaging (emails) to remain in contact with friends and family members. Attorney visits will be conducted using the non-contact visitation area of the jail and Probation/Parole agents will be encouraged to use the poly-com system to conduct their business with inmates.

Community Mental Health:

- All Foster Care homes owned by CMH will be following Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-007 for visitor restrictions and screening.
- Skilled building programming is suspended until at least April 1, 2020.
- Empowerment Network is closed and running emergency services including food as needed.

Department of Health and Human Services:

Based on state directives, offices must utilize phone contacts as the primary means of conducting business whenever possible. Clients who need help with completing an application will be assigned to a staff person for help on an as-needed basis only. All other business will be by appointment only.

City of Fremont:

Beginning at 9:00 AM Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all city offices are closed to the general public until further notice. Staff will remain available by phone during regular working hours. Anyone needing City services or who have a previously scheduled appointment should call the respective office before traveling to a City building. Business may be conducted via phone (231) 924-2101, US Mail, online at www.cityoffremont.net, or the Municipal Building Drop Box in the north parking lot exit that will be checked regularly. Bills are still due as normal.

Fremont Community Recreation Center: In accordance with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-009, the Fremont Community Recreation Center will be closed until March 30, 2020.

City of Newaygo:

Effective immediately the City of Newaygo is closed to the general public until April 6, 2020 (this date may be extended as needed). Staff will remain available by phone during regular working hours and serve the public through means other than in-person interactions. Business may be conducted via phone (231) 652-1657, US Mail, online at <https://www.newaygocity.org/> or at the Municipal Building Drop Box. Meetings may be cancelled or held via electronic means. Information regarding meetings can be found on the City's website or City Hall external bulletin board.

City of Grant:

At this time, the City Offices are remaining open to the public.

City of White Cloud:

City of White Cloud Offices is restricting access to the general public. Staff will remain available by phone during regular working hours. Anyone needing City services or who have a previously scheduled appointment should call the respective office before traveling to a City building. Business may be conducted via phone (231) 689-1194, US Mail, online at <http://www.cityofwhitecloud.org/>, or at the Municipal Building Drop Box.

Community Services

Libraries:

In accordance with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-009, all public libraries will be closed until April 6, 2020. All items currently checked out are due back on April 6. No late fees will be incurred during this time.

Unemployment:

Under the Governor's Executive Order 2020-010, unemployment benefits will be temporarily expanded until April 14, 2020. This expansion includes benefits increasing from 20 to 26 weeks, the application eligibility period will be increased from 14 to 28 days, and the normal in-person registration and work search requirements will be suspended. Eligibility now includes workers who have unanticipated family care responsibility, including those who have childcare responsibilities

due to school closures, or those who are forced to care for loved ones who become ill, workers who are sick, quarantines, or immunocompromised and who do not have access to paid family and medical leave or are laid off, and first responders in the public health community who become ill or are quarantined due to exposure of COVID-19. Eligible employees should apply for unemployment benefits online at [Michigan.gov/UJA](https://www.michigan.gov/UJA) or 1-866-500-0017. A factsheet on how to apply for benefits can be found [here](#).

Love Inc:

Resale Store is closed until April 6, 2020. The Food Pantry and Help Office will be open with altered procedures –

- All non-essential volunteer activities have been suspended until further notice
- All non-essential face to face meetings and classes have been postponed or cancelled
- No face-to-face intake will occur at the Help Center. All intakes will be done via phone.
- The food pantry will be available via minimal access onsite shopping one at a time or in pre-packaged food boxes delivered curbside to vehicles.
- If you are facing new challenges, please call Love Inc at 231-652-4099

True North Community Services:

Will remain open under some modifications

- **Camp Newaygo:** All public community events are canceled through April 13. Girls' Resident Camp and Co-ed Day Camp are proceeding as scheduled.
- **Center for Nonprofit Housing:** Services will be available with increased use of phone and electronic communication when appropriate.
- **Circles Newaygo County:** All weekly meetings are canceled until the week of April 13. Circle Leaders and Allies are encouraged to continue communication as they deem appropriate.
- **Food Pantry:** The food pantry at the TrueNorth Service Center in Fremont will remain accessible during normal hours (8:30am – 4:30pm). Prepackaged boxes of food will be delivered curbside to vehicles at the food pantry exit door (north side of the building).
- **Heat and Energy:** All heat and energy programs will proceed as normal.
- **Housing:** Essential housing services, such as homeless prevention and support, will be available with increased use of phone and electronic communication when appropriate.
- **Mobile Food Truck:** The mobile food truck schedule will not change, but will run as a drive-thru for pre-assembled boxes of food items.
- **Out of School Time Programs:** Due to the closure of all Michigan K-12 schools, all TrueNorth out of school time programs are canceled until the individual school districts resume classes.
- **TrueMentors:** All after school, Parks In Focus and TrueBlue Academy programming are canceled until the week of April 13. Community-based mentoring will proceed as participants deem appropriate.
- **Volunteer Services:** All TrueNorth volunteer activities are suspended through April 13.
- **Weekend PowerPacks:** We are currently working with individual school districts to find an alternative method of distribution to students in need.

Local State of Emergency Declared on March 13, 2020

In response to the State of Michigan's efforts to take proactive steps to prevent and prepare for the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019" (COVID-19), the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners Chief Elected Official has declared a Local State of Emergency on March 13, 2020. This declaration of a Local State of Emergency activates the Newaygo County Emergency Operations Plan to direct the jurisdiction's response and recovery efforts and resources so that local resources are being utilized to the fullest possible extent. This includes activation of the jurisdiction's emergency operations center for coordination and control and utilization of the National Incident Management System by disaster relief forces.

Local Executive Directive issued on March 13, 2020

In accordance with Section 10 of the Michigan Public Act 390, as amended and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommendations for the COVID-19 Community Mitigation strategies, the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners Chief Elected Official has also issued an Executive Directive. The following actions shall be taken by the designated government, public, and private officials as to provide appropriate emergency response support to the incident:

1. If you have respiratory symptoms, **STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK**. Call your health care provider's office in advance of your visit or call Spectrum Health's virtual **COVID-19 screening hotline at 616.391.2380**.
2. Cancel or postpone large gatherings, non-essential public meetings, conferences, and sporting events in accordance with current Governor's Executive Orders.
3. All employers in Newaygo County should implement social distancing measures as feasible, including limiting in-person meetings, limit large work-related gatherings (e.g., staff meetings and after-work functions), and limit non-essential work travel.
4. All community and faith based organizations in Newaygo County should avoid large gatherings or move to smaller and staggered gatherings in accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders.
5. For organizations that serve high-risk communities, cancel any gatherings of more than 10 people.
6. All individuals should continue to take the following basic personal-hygiene measures to prevent the spread of the virus:
 - wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
 - avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
 - cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
 - avoid handshakes
 - avoid contact with sick people who are sick
 - **stay home when you are sick**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW LOCALLY

- **Call Before you go:** Availability of routine in-person services may be limited. Please access services as much as possible online or by phone. Many events, activities, and community services have been closed or altered services. Many healthcare facilities housing vulnerable populations are enforcing family and visitor restrictions or are self-quarantining their residents to protect them.
- **Free Virtual Screening 616.391.2380:** Spectrum Health is offering free virtual COVID-19 screenings to those who have symptoms and may be concerned they have the virus. The purpose is to prevent the spread of illness by enabling people to seek the information they need from their homes, while making it easy and convenient for them. People in the state of Michigan who are experiencing symptoms can call the **health system's hotline 616.391.2380** to be scheduled for a free virtual screening.
- Anyone with severe or life-threatening symptoms should call 911.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Be prepared if there is COVID-19 in your household or a disruption of daily activities in your community. For example, maintain a supply of medications, food, and other essentials in your house. Consider alternative shopping options such as curbside pickups or online deliveries.
- Availability of in-person services may be limited. Access services as much as possible online or by phone.

- Additional cancellations of events, community gatherings, sporting events, and other in-person gatherings.
- Additional measures and guidance to be implemented by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in order to protect the public and limit the spread of the virus.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

- **ONLY CALL 9-1-1 TO REPORT EMERGENCIES!** Emergency operators and phone lines are needed to support this incident, please continue to monitor Nixle for updates or call 2-1-1 (not 9-1-1) for general safety information.
- **DO NOT GO TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT FOR TESTING!** Please DO NOT show up at an emergency department or urgent care center unless it is a life-threatening emergency and you need immediate medical care. Anyone with severe or life-threatening symptoms should call 911.
- **VIRTUAL SCREENING FOR COVID-19 IS AVAILABLE BY CALLING 616.391.2380!** Spectrum Health is offering free virtual COVID-19 screenings to those who have symptoms and may be concerned they have the virus. The purpose is to prevent the spread of illness by enabling people to seek the information they need from their homes, while making it easy and convenient for them.
- **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE RELEASED!** Continue monitoring your radio, Nixle, and Newaygo ES's Facebook Page for additional information.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

Additional resources for information monitoring –

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

State of Michigan: <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/>

Spectrum Health: <https://www.spectrumhealth.org/covid19>

District Public Health Department 10: <https://www.dhd10.org/>

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