



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



March 20, 2020

NEWAYGO COUNTY COVID-19 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

TEXT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE 03/20/2020: Changes to local government services during COVID-19. Click for more info (LINK ATTACHED)

EMAIL: LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE 03/20/2020: 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

Michigan Department of Corrections Office IS CLOSED

Probationers and Parolees – the Michigan Department of Corrections Office is CLOSED for reporting.

Newaygo County Courthouse Update 3/20/20:

Consistent with the directive of the Michigan Supreme Court that courts must take every measure possible to protect the public and court personnel, court staff in each office has been reduced and court hours are now reduced to 9:00 am to 3:00 pm until April 3, 2020. In addition, the following measures are now effective immediately,

- Access to courtrooms and other spaces is now limited to more than 10 persons, including staff.
- Social distancing recommendations including that persons stay at least 6 feet apart are also adopted by the courts.
- The court remains closed to the general public except for essential functions involving health and safety and Constitutional rights.
- 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.

These changes are subject to modification. Please check the County's Website for changes.

Governor's Executive Order 2020-014

The General Property Tax Act PA 206, as amended is temporarily suspended. As a result, the deadline by which property forfeited to a county treasurer must be redeemed is extended from March 31, 2020 until the later of (a) May 29, 2020 or (b) 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency under section 3 of Executive Order 2020-4.

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.

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:

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.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services:

- Effective immediately, MDHHS lobbies are temporarily closed. Michigan residents are asked to avoid public spaces and visit the offices only if you have a scheduled appointment or visit.
- If you have questions or are here for a scheduled appointment, please contact your worker by telephone or email. If you do not have their number, please contact (231) 689-5500
- For any payment or benefit questions please contact INSERT UCL or MAIN OFFICE NUMBER. For child welfare questions please contact INSERT PHONE NUMBER.

MiBridges

You can access MiBridges at Michigan.gov/mibridges from your phone or any computer for your benefit needs, including:

- Applying for benefits – food, cash, Medicaid, SER, etc.
- Checking benefits
- Changing addresses
- Uploading documents

Applications for assistance have been made available for individuals who are not able to apply using MiBridges. Completed applications and paperwork required to complete eligibility determinations can be left in the designated drop box.

Please call 888-678-8914 to request a new Bridge card if necessary.

If you are a home help provider, please call Champs at 800-979-4662 or online at www.michigan.gov/homehelp

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.

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.

Local State of Emergency Declared on March 13, 2020 has been extended until Terminated

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**

Always, call before you go and Use Telemedicine resources whenever possible

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

If you do not have a high-risk condition but want medical advice, call your healthcare provider or a virtual health service such as Spectrum Health Now and tell them you were exposed to someone with COVID-19. Your healthcare provider can help you decide if you need to be evaluated in person. There are currently no medications to treat COVID-19.

Continue to Avoid Large Gatherings

All residents in Newaygo County should practice social distancing measures as feasible including limiting in-person meetings, large work and personal gatherings, and limit non-essential travel outside your home and work areas.

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 implement 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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