



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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GOVERNOR

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Due to increasing case rates and variant spread in Michigan, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is urging immediate action to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

We are on track to potentially see a surge in cases that is even greater than the one we saw in the fall. Michigan's case rate and percent positivity are four times where we were in February. Hospitalizations are increasing and 15.2 percent of hospital beds are now being used to take care of patients with COVID-19. These three metrics show us that there is general community spread of the virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that Michigan and other states with high rates of coronavirus transmission add restrictive public health measures including pausing youth athletics.

K-12 schools have the greatest number of new and ongoing outbreaks in Michigan right now, many of which are tied to youth sports. Between January and March, Michigan documented 291 outbreaks associated with youth sports teams, both contact and non-contact sports, that involved at least 1,091 people.

Infectious disease and public health experts have been very clear that indoor dining is one of the riskiest things you can do during this pandemic, and with the numbers we are seeing now we do not recommend it. We have seen 58 new outbreaks in restaurant and retail settings alone in the past week, compared to the previous week.

Beginning April 12, 2021 MDHHS strongly recommends communities take the following mitigation measures for the next two weeks:

- 1) Remote learning for high school students.**
- 2) Pause all youth sports.**
- 3) Avoid indoor dining.** It is safer to support your local restaurant by ordering take-out and dining outdoors.

We understand it is hard to take additional public health restrictions when we are all so hopeful that the end is near. Vaccines are the most important tool we have to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and Michigan has now administered more than five million vaccines. Unfortunately, we're not out of this yet and we need everyone's help to keep our schools and our communities safe.

It is critical that all Michiganders continue to mask up, wash their hands, social distance, and get vaccinated as soon as it is available to them.

Testing, including rapid testing, is now widely available. We encourage individuals to get tested if they have symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19, have recently been exposed to a person with COVID-19, or have recently returned from travel.

Michiganders are strong. We know what to do, avoid large crowds and activities where social distancing cannot be maintained, wear a mask, and choose outdoor activities when seeing friends or family.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hertel

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun