

Dear Clients and Friends,

We hope you and your families are managing well and doing your best to stay safe and healthy during this uncertain time. The total number of cases in the state has risen to 1,791, including 24 deaths. This also includes one inmate and three employees in the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Michigan Legislature

Legislative leadership has issued statements supporting Gov. Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order. Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) described the order as "a step none of us wanted to see happen, but one that is necessary." Speaker of the House Lee Chatfield (R-Levering) also issued a statement saying that the governor "is in the best and most informed position to determine what's best for public health . . . I appreciate and support her efforts."

The legislature will not take attendance or votes on Wednesday, March 25. Session is possible on either or both of the follow Wednesdays.

Michigan Executive and State Departments

The governor issued guidance on allowable construction activities under the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order:

"Some limited forms of construction are permissible, including construction to maintain and improve essential public works like roads, bridges, the telecommunications infrastructure, and public health infrastructure. Construction workers may also undertake such projects as necessary to maintain and improve the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences. In addition, businesses may designate construction firms to provide necessary support to the work of the businesses' critical infrastructure workers. All construction work that is carried out while the order is in effect must be done in accordance with the mitigation measures required under section 5(c) of the order."

Additionally, the governor's office has issued communications guidelines for stakeholder outreach moving forward. For more information, contact a Kelley Cawthorne lobbyist.

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has told local clerks to prepare for the May election to be main-in only in order to address concerns regarding poll workers' and voters' exposure to COVID-19. Benson has indicated that the department will mail absentee voter applications to all May election voters and help recruit workers to safely tabulate ballots. Additionally, the department will bear those costs.

Federal

[White House and Senate leaders reached an agreement on a \\$2 Trillion Federal Coronavirus Stimulus Package. The Senate will take up the bill later today.](#) More details to follow but reported highlights include:

- Direct relief to citizens: \$1,200 grant per adult for those making up to \$75,000 annually; \$2,400 for married couples making up to \$150,000 annually with \$500 per child.
- Unemployment Insurance: funding for up to four (4) months of salary plus \$600 per month for furloughed workers through state UI agencies. "Gig economy" workers would also be covered for the first time.
- \$500 Million for a corporate liquidity program to be administered by the Department of Treasury with oversight by an Inspector General and a Congressional panel similar to TARP

program during the 2008 financial crisis. Companies which receive funds from the program will be prohibited from stock buy-backs for one (1) year and there is reportedly a ban on companies associated with the President and other high ranking officials from receiving funds. This \$500 Billion in “buffer capital” will allow the Federal Reserve to inject up to \$4 Trillion in liquidity into the economy.

- \$367 Billion in loans and/or grants for small businesses to cover payroll during the outbreak. There will also be an employee retention tax credit for companies who do not lay off employees.
- \$150 Billion to state and local governments.
- \$100 Billion for hospitals.
- \$30 Billion for education.
- \$25 Billion for public transit.
- \$25 Billion for airlines.

Our colleagues at Cornerstone Government Affairs in Washington, D.C. have highlighted some updates on the federal level:

- Experts from the White House Coronavirus Task Force have advised anyone leaving New York to self-quarantine for two weeks. New York is now considered an epidemiological “hot zone,” with case counts doubling every three days.
- The CDC has launched a [COVID-19 symptom self-checker](#). According to the CDC, the purpose of the self-checker, a bot named Clara, is to help make decisions about seeking appropriate medical care. But the system is not meant to diagnose or provide treatment options for COVID-19 or other conditions.
- The FDA [announced](#) multiple actions taken in its ongoing response effort to COVID-19.
- The Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) authority allows the FDA to help strengthen the nation’s public health protections against CBRN threats by facilitating the availability and use of MCMs needed during public health emergencies. Click [here](#) for a list of current EUAs.
- The FDA took action to increase U.S. supplies to support the U.S. response to COVID-19 by providing [instructions to manufacturers](#) importing personal protective equipment and other devices.
- The FDA is [allowing](#) veterinarians to examine animals virtually to encourage social distancing.
- The FDA labeled Gilead Sciences’ experimental drug Remdesivir an orphan drug, which provides a seven-year market exclusivity period as well as tax and other incentives for the drug company. Remdesivir is seen as a promising potential treatment for coronavirus.
- HHS ASPR is providing \$100 million to support the National Special Pathogen System (NSPS), which will leverage infrastructure set up for the U.S. Ebola response in order to assist health departments and hospital systems across the country.
- CMS approved Medicaid Section 1135 waivers for 11 states, bringing the total number of states approved for waivers to 13. The waivers offer states flexibilities to focus their resources on combating the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee sent a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Robert Lightizer and Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross urging expedited processing of tariff exclusion requests and temporary suspension of tariffs on certain goods. The letter states tariff relief will provide support to the healthcare system and small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) and Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) and Ben McAdams (D-UT) are still the only members of Congress who have tested positive for COVID-19; however, 26 other members are now in self-quarantine. Four members have completed a self-quarantine.

Client News

- 3M and Ford Motor Co. have partnered to increase production capacity for personal protective equipment, including powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs). More information from 3M and Ford Motor Co. are attached.
- The McLaren Greater Lansing Foundation is serving as the drop-off site for supply donations. Donations of masks, gowns, goggles, gloves, and hand sanitizer have been arriving since yesterday. More details about supplies being accepted are available [here](#).
- AT&T is taking action to keep people connected during the coronavirus outbreak. More details are attached.

Other

- Kelley Cawthorne has sample notification documents for critical infrastructure workers and minimum business operations. Contact a Kelley Cawthorne lobbyist for more details.
- [The annual Mackinac Policy Conference has been moved back to August.](#)
- [Democrats are considering other options for their national convention in July.](#)
- A comprehensive list of state and local actions to address COVID-19 across the nation is available [here](#).
- The governor's office is maintaining a running list of frequently asked questions regarding the various COVID-19 executive orders. Those frequently asked questions are available [here](#).
- The Detroit Regional Chamber is hosting a series of tele-town halls on various topics related to COVID-19. Upcoming guests include John T. Fox, Susan Grant, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, Michael Robinet, and Chad Livengood. More information is available [here](#).
- Want to help? Join a Mutual Aid Society. See a nationwide database [here](#).
- Other companies, including ATG Precision Products, are looking to adjust their production plans to assist in manufacturing personal protective equipment.

In non-coronavirus news, Kelley Cawthorne lobbyist Jim Kirsch is featured in the pitch trailer for the upcoming feature film "Angels Among Us." Check it out [here](#)!

As things develop involving the COVID-19 outbreak in Michigan, please continue to share with us your organization's developments. Let us know how we can assist with distributing both good news and important information to government stakeholders.

Subscribe to the State of Michigan's COVID-19 website [here](#). The state is also operating a coronavirus hotline at (888) 535-6136. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control updates information and resources [here](#).

Please reach out if you have any questions and we will continue to keep you apprised of further updates.

Thank you,

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