

COVID-19

MDHHS EPIDEMIC ORDER OCT. 9

MDHHS has issued orders under a law first enacted by the Michigan Legislature after the Spanish Flu of 1918 specifically to deal with epidemics. Note that the Supreme Court struck down a different, broader law.

Under MDHHS's epidemic order:



1 **Masks** must be worn over nose and mouth in gatherings of two or more people, including stores, offices, schools and events. Businesses cannot admit people without masks, with few exceptions.



2 **Capacity** limits apply to indoor and outdoor gatherings, including business, social and recreational settings. They're stricter inside.



3 **Restaurants and bars** must limit capacity for gatherings, and may only serve alcohol to parties who are seated, 6 feet apart, and stay separate.



4 **Organized sports** require masks (except for swimming) and have gathering limits.



5 **Employees** who are in isolation or quarantine because of COVID-19 exposure, symptoms or test results cannot go to work with others, or be required to go to work with others.



6 **Contact tracing:** Many businesses must collect contact information from their customers so they can be contacted in case they are exposed to someone who is ill.

To reduce confusion following the Supreme Court decision, MDHHS issued orders following existing executive orders as much as possible under the different law to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19.

- Capacity limits and rules for sports are the same as before.
- Traverse City (Region 6) has slightly less strict rules, as before.
- Mask requirements are almost the same; they do not apply to individuals not in gatherings.
- There are no longer bar closures, but bars may only serve alcohol to gatherings seated at tables.
- MDHHS rules do not include all prior worker protections.

To read the complete MDHHS Oct. 9, 2020, Epidemic Order, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus. Questions or concerns can be emailed to COVID19@michigan.gov.