

As of March 20, 2020 at 12:00 PM:

- No cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) have been confirmed in Cass or Van Buren County at this time.
- There are 334 positive cases of COVID-19 in Michigan (3 deaths).

The count of COVID-19 cases reported by MDHHS includes results from commercial and clinic labs who recently began providing testing. These results increased the state's positive case count to a total of 334. [View latest data here.](#) **data on the website is updated daily at 2pm and does not yet reflect the additional 2 deaths reported.*

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) launched a statewide hotline to respond to health-related questions about COVID-19. The hotline (1-888-535-6136) will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Public health and other experts will answer health-related questions.

Latest State and Local Updates:

1. To protect the public's health and reduce the spread of COVID-19, Van/Buren Cass District Health Department has made temporary adjustments to public health services offered in Van Buren and Cass County. [View full press release attached.](#)
- **ALL individuals visiting the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department will receive a health risk assessment (questionnaire) and temperature check**
 - **All Community Dental Clinics are closed for preventive and restorative care** appointments and will tentatively reopen on Monday, April 6, 2020.
 - **Emergency Dental Care is available at all three locations** [57418 CR 681, Hartford / 302 S. Front St., Dowagiac / 23200 Red Arrow Hwy.]. Individuals in need of care should call 800-210-1921 to schedule an appointment as hours may vary.
 - All other public health services (immunizations; STD testing/treatment; CSHCS; TB contact investigations; water & septic inspections; and food permits) are operating as usual.
1. **There is now a [map available to find meals for children during school closures.](#)** Visit the Michigan Department of Education (MDE)'s [interactive map](#) developed for families to find locations where meals are being provided during the period of school closure. The Map is updated twice each day during closure period. [Tri-county food distribution sites attached \(UWSM\).](#)
 2. **The Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity provides guidance to employers contemplating potential layoffs.** [More information can be found here.](#)
 3. Earlier this week, "Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced [today] the call up of the Michigan Army National Guard to assist the Michigan Department of Health

and Human Services with assembling and loading critical personal protective gear, such as gloves, gowns, and face shields. Once packaged, MDHHS will deliver the supplies to various local public health departments." VBCDHD has received a very limited amount of supplies for health care entities. If an agency is in critical need of supplies, contact our Emergency Coordinator at jordan@vbcassdhd.org.

Executive Orders since our last communication:

- [EO 2020-12](#) - Enhanced support for deliveries
- [EO 2020-13](#) - Temporary enhancements to operational capacity and efficiency of health care facilities
- [EO 2020-14](#) - Temporary extension of deadline to redeem property for nonpayment of delinquent property taxes
- [EO 2020-15](#) - Temporary authorization of remote participation in public meetings and hearings and temporary relief from monthly meeting requirements for school boards
- [EO 2020-16](#) - Expanding child care access during the COVID-19 emergency

[View all executive orders here.](#)

Important Contact Numbers and Webpages:

If an individual suspects they have COVID-19 symptoms, they should stay home and take one of the following steps:

1. Call their primary care provider (PCP) via telephone
2. Do a virtual visit with their health system/provider
3. Call one of the three Care Advisor phone numbers below provided by our local health systems. **these numbers are helpful for individuals who do not have a PCP.*

**If your symptoms are life-threatening call 9-1-1*

MDHHS COVID-19 Hotline (8am-5pm)

(888) 535-6136

www.michigan.gov/coronavirus

Bronson

(269) 341-7788

www.bronsonhealth.com/coronavirus-covid-19

Ascension Borgess

(833) 978-0649

www.healthcare.ascension.org

Spectrum Health Lakeland

(616) 391-2380

<https://www.spectrumhealthlakeland.org/covid19>

*A Chatbot is available online

*Drive-up testing is available but all patients require a physician's order to be tested

As the situation continues to change rapidly, we recommend referring to these sites for the most current information:

Van Buren/Cass District Health Department: www.vbcassdhd.org/covid-19

Michigan: www.michigan.gov/coronavirus

National: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

United Way of Southwest Michigan (local): for emergency updates, links to trusted sources, food distribution sites, and self-care strategies: <https://www.uwsm.org/emergency-preparedness-response>

VBCDHD Response Actions:

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department continues to respond to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 outbreak. We are continually partnering with state and federal agencies for communication and guidance on COVID-19 to the public and healthcare professionals; coordinating and communicating with local community organizations impacted by the announcements and executive orders over the past week, including consideration for how they will impact our community-at-large; and preparing ourselves and our health systems locally should we need to respond to suspected COVID-19 cases and positive test result(s).

VBCDHD will keep our website (www.vbcassdhd.org/covid-19) as up-to-date as possible with the latest information, including access to Michigan.gov/coronavirus data.

Stay well,

Danielle Persky

Director, Health Promotion

Van Buren/Cass District Health Department

[Dowagiac](#) | [Hartford \(Main\)](#) | [Mattawan](#)

Phone (269) 621-3143 ext. 1314 (main)

Phone (269) 621-3143 ext. 3010 (Mattawan)

Cell (269) 312-1970

Fax (269) 621-2725

www.vbcassdhd.org