

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRIUS) NOTICE TO TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

MARCH 16, 2020

Township Officials are closely monitoring the response and recommendations at the local, state and federal levels. The safety of our community and well-being of staff are the Township's top priorities.

During these times of unprecedented challenges, the Township will continue our focus on public safety. As always, our exemplary Police & Fire Departments stand ready to meet the challenge. Let's pause and care for one another during this time of crisis.

All Township buildings are closed to the public to reduce the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Township offices will operate with limited staff to remain available to answer calls for service. Electronic and remote delivery of services have been increased.

**Township Hall and Facilities:** anyone wishing to make a payment for sewer/trash/water bills the following payment options are available: **by mail, on-line or drop in the lockbox outside the front doors.**

**Police Station:** the dispatch button located outside the lobby entrance door will be functioning and services can be requested by using this option.

**Fire Stations:** only duty personnel will be allowed inside.

**Water Department and Facilities:** water shut offs are being temporary cancelled.

**Trash Pickup:** will not be interrupted.

**Building Department:** call Chris (208-7779), Andy (252-3729) or the office (925-0616) for inspections and/or permits. Rental Inspections are being canceled.

Together we can work to protect the health of all of those around us. Our hearts are with those currently affected by the virus and those that are in vulnerable areas.

Benton Charter Township Board

Supervisor Cathy Yates, Clerk Carolyn Phillips, Treasurer Debbie Boothby and Trustees Janice Avery, Rosie Hudson, Linda Scarbrough & Lemont Betts.

# What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

## Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

## Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

## How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

## What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

## What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

## How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

## If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

## Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

## Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.



[cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

# HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Keeping yourself and your family safe around respiratory illnesses



## WASH YOUR HANDS

It's important. Most of us don't do it enough or aren't good at it. Scrub for 20 seconds. If you can't wash, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



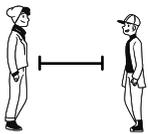
## STAY HOME IF YOU'RE SICK

If you need medical care and think you may have been exposed to coronavirus, call your medical provider for instructions before going in.



## KEEP GERMS OUT OF THE AIR

Cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands. Or, use a tissue and throw it away.



## SOCIAL DISTANCING

Someone coughing? Move away – 6 feet or more.



## DISINFECT SURFACES

Clean frequently-touched surfaces at home. Wash your hands after visiting public spaces.



## ALWAYS BE READY

Risk of exposure remains low. But, start thinking about general, daily supplies – water and food staples or medications, for example. Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for suggestions.



## MASKS

Masks are not a good prevention tool for healthy people. If you are sick, masks can help prevent the spread of germs. Health care workers or others caring for sick people should also wear appropriate face masks.



## KEEP RISK IN PERSPECTIVE

Flu is actively circulating in Berrien County. Novel coronavirus is not. Practice good prevention (handwashing, staying home if sick, etc.). Get a flu shot if you haven't.



## RELIABLE INFORMATION

Make sure you're getting accurate information. Bookmark [www.bchdmi.org](http://www.bchdmi.org) and follow the Berrien County Health Department on social media.

 @bchdmi

 @berriencountyhealthdepartment



**BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

better health. stronger communities.

Updated 3/3/20

Information adapted from the Washtenaw County Health Department