

## COVID-19 Conversations with Community Partners

June 3, 2020

### Questions and Answers

- 1. Are businesses still being requested to have employees complete the health screening form when they report to work?**

Yes, that is part of Executive Order 2020-97.

- 2. I am hearing that mostly local people are nervous and want to avoid crowds. However, those who want to travel here seem to think we are low risk so we don't need to worry.**

It is looking like we are moving forward to a low risk phase and we can move forward with optimism. However, we still have some high-risk populations that we recommend staying home, have curbside pickup, and use other measures to keep their risk of exposure low.

- 3. Do you know how many people were tested on Saturday in Traverse City?**

The Grand Traverse County Health Department working in conjunction with the Michigan National Guard tested over 800 people on Saturday and Sunday. Over 400 people were tested in Mackinaw City. This shows there is a need to have more testing opportunities in Northern Michigan.

- 4. Will we have rapid testing kits up here anytime soon?**

Currently, the Health Department does have access to a limited number of rapid test kits.

- 5. I have heard that the rapid tests are not very reliable. Hear that they have a 40% false test return.**

What we have learned with using the rapid tests is that they need to be used on people with a high index of suspicion for already having COVID-19. When used on these people, the tests have proven to be 100% reliable.

- 6. Any progress of the thinking of bringing testing sites to the county, outside of private practices?**

The State of Michigan has created a rural workgroup to get testing sites throughout Michigan. Currently the Health Department is working with a lab located in Ann Arbor to develop a strategy plan to come to our area to help facilitate testing for residents and staff of our long-term care facilities. Hopefully, this will allow "pop-up" testing facilities in other areas of the counties.

- 7. What advice would you give regarding quarantine of employees, like seasonal employees, who are coming to this area for work?**

The Health Department continues to advise people to look at their personal risk profile. Are they coming from another household with very low contact? Then they may not have to quarantine. If they traveled by plane with a lot of people on it, then they may want to quarantine. The responsibility shifts to the person and their personal risk profile.

- 8. Will the restrictions be relaxed even more after July 4<sup>th</sup>?**

The Governor has mentioned that she hopes to open up more businesses prior to 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

- 9. What are the restrictions on short-term rentals?**

It is the Health Department's understanding that the new Executive Order, 2020-110, rescinds prior Executive Orders which included the ban on short term rentals. There are still some businesses restricted and they are listed in Order 2020-110.

**10. Have you any plans for a teen toolkit?**

This is a great idea and is one of the areas that we will face as a risk as teens gather this summer. The Health Department will look into creating such a toolkit.

**11. Will there be possibilities for graduation celebrations as long as social distancing is maintained?**

Yes as long as social distancing, masking and other safety precautions are put into place.

**12. We found an OSHA YouTube video that helps meet the training requirements for workplaces, any further action from the Health Department?**

The Health Department is looking to embed video links and other media links within the plans as a resource for businesses.

**13. Don't the businesses need information now? When will the plan be developed?**

We are currently in the process of compiling information and hope to have the plan developed soon. The Small Businesses Association of Michigan has a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response plan template that can be found by clicking on this link: [Download Your Template](#)

**In closing, we would like to thank everyone for their time and efforts in keeping the community safe. The Health Department provides daily updates. If you would want to be added to our emailing list, please contact Michelle Klein at [mklein@bldhd.org](mailto:mklein@bldhd.org)**