



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
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Residents Encouraged to Stay Safe During July 4 Weekend and Summer Activities

Kalamazoo, MI – Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department encourages residents to take the necessary public health safety precautions during this July 4 holiday weekend and other summer celebrations and activities while gathering with family and friends. The health, economic, and social harms of the COVID-19 pandemic remain widespread and severe in Kalamazoo County.

As of today, there are 1,024 positive cases, 830 recovered cases, 136 hospitalizations, and 66 deaths attributed to COVID-19. This information and the breakdown by gender, age, race and zip code map are available on the [Kalamazoo County COVID-19 Data Hub](#). The State's [MI Safe Start Dashboard](#) is another resource for daily information on all counties in Michigan.

“We are starting to see the slow increase in numbers, which was to be expected once the state started to reopen. With some of the restrictions lifted, it is now the personal responsibility of every individual to do the right thing,” says Jim Rutherford, Health Officer of Kalamazoo County. “COVID-19 did not go away when we were home and businesses were closed. It was here then, and COVID-19 is still here now. That is why we all must do our part if we choose to go out and gather with others by staying 6 feet away from people, washing your hands frequently, and wearing a mask.”

Kalamazoo County is under Executive Order 2020-110 (COVID-19). Temporary restrictions on certain events, gatherings, and businesses does allow for social gatherings of people not part of the same household (10) indoors and (100) outdoors, but they must be able to maintain six feet distance from one another.

When possible, choose activities or behaviors that are lower risk, such as keep six feet apart from others rather than standing close to one another and gather outside rather than indoors. If you choose to gather in a large indoor space, make sure the area is cleaned and disinfected before and after the gathering. The more low-risk choices people make during a gathering, the more protection there is from getting or spreading COVID-19.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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The Health & Community Services Department encourages people to adopt the following recommendations to keep you and your loved ones safe during the holiday celebrations and other summer activities and gatherings:

1. Keep it small. A gathering should be under 10 people.
2. Meet outside.
3. Stay at least six feet apart.
4. Wash or sanitize hands often.
5. Wear masks, if possible.
6. Do not share food, drinks, or other items. Have everyone bring their own snacks or serve food with single-use serving utensils.

On July 1, Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-143, closing indoor services at bars, but allowing outdoor services and cocktails-to-go options through the signed Senate Bill 942 and House Bills 5781 and 5811. The governor's executive order applies to establishments with on-premises retailer liquor licenses that earn more than 70% of their gross receipts from alcohol sales. That means that most brewpubs, distilleries, and vineyards can stay open indoors. Traditional bars, nightclubs, and strip clubs will have to end indoor service.

Kalamazoo County residents are also reminded of general safety tips. If you plan to display fireworks in a safe area with family members, follow appropriate safety measures as indicated by the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#). Remember that your pets may not like fireworks and take care of their needs. If you choose to travel this holiday weekend, remember to buckle up, follow speed limits, and don't drink and drive. Individual actions impact the health and safety of others, now more than ever. By following the tips above, residents can continue to do their part in slowing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting their families and community.

Information about the COVID-19 is rapidly changing. The latest information is available at www.michigan.gov/coronavirus and www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19.php.

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