

Coronavirus



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Emergency Order Requiring Testing of Agricultural and Food Processing Employees Remains in Effect

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LANSING, MICH. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Robert Gordon applauded a recent decision by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan regarding a lawsuit challenging the department's order requiring testing to protect farm and food processing employees from COVID-19. The court denied a temporary restraining order regarding the department's Emergency Order.

"MDHHS appreciates the judge's ruling," said Gordon. "The department's goal is to save lives during a pandemic that has killed more than 6,300 people in Michigan. At a time when farms, food processing plants and migrant worker camps face 21 outbreaks, the best way to save lives is to support and test these hard-working employees."

The order, **which was announced on Aug. 3**, remains in effect. It requires migrant housing camp operators to provide COVID-19 testing as follows:

- One-time baseline testing of all residents ages 18 and over.
- Testing of all new residents with 48 hours of arrival, with separate housing for newly arriving residents for 14 days and a second test 10 – 14 days after arrival.
- Testing of any resident with symptoms or exposure.



Employers of migrant or seasonal workers, meat, poultry and egg processing facilities and greenhouses with over 20 employees on-site at a time to provide COVID-19 testing as follows:



- One-time baseline testing of all workers.
- Testing of all new workers prior to any in-person work.
- Testing of any worker with symptoms or exposure.

The deadline for businesses to comply is Aug. 24. Those seeking assistance with compliance email MDHHS-Migrant-Affairs@michigan.gov. Additional information, including a Frequently Asked Question document, is available on the **COVID-19 website**.



Failure to comply with this order may result in the issuance of a civil monetary penalty under the authority of MCL 333.2262.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

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