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



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August 17, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2020

Contact: Lynn Sutfin, 517-241-2112

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 can 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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[Coronavirus Department of Health & Human Services](#)

Related News

[**COVID-19 Omicron variant illustrates importance of getting vaccinated, including booster doses, wearing masks, other mitigation strategies; MDHHS is monitoring to identify any presence in Michigan, but has not yet detected new variant**](#)

[**MDHHS highlights long-term care facility visitation guidance ahead of the holidays**](#)

[**State of Michigan secures additional staffing to support hospitals 44 additional medical personnel will assist and support staff at Beaumont Hospital, Dearborn and Spectrum Health**](#)

[**More than 10% of Michigan children ages 5-11 have received their first dose of the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine MDHHS urges parents and caregivers to make an appointment for their child as soon as possible**](#)

[**MDHHS will issue face mask advisory for the holiday season due to rise in cases of flu and COVID-19**](#)

[**Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer booster doses authorized for all ages 18 and up
Eligible Michiganders should plan to get booster doses six months after primary mRNA
series or two months after single dose of Johnson & Johnson**](#)

[**Michigan surpasses 70% vaccinated milestone for ages 16 and older**](#)

[**Children ages 5 to 11 now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine**](#)

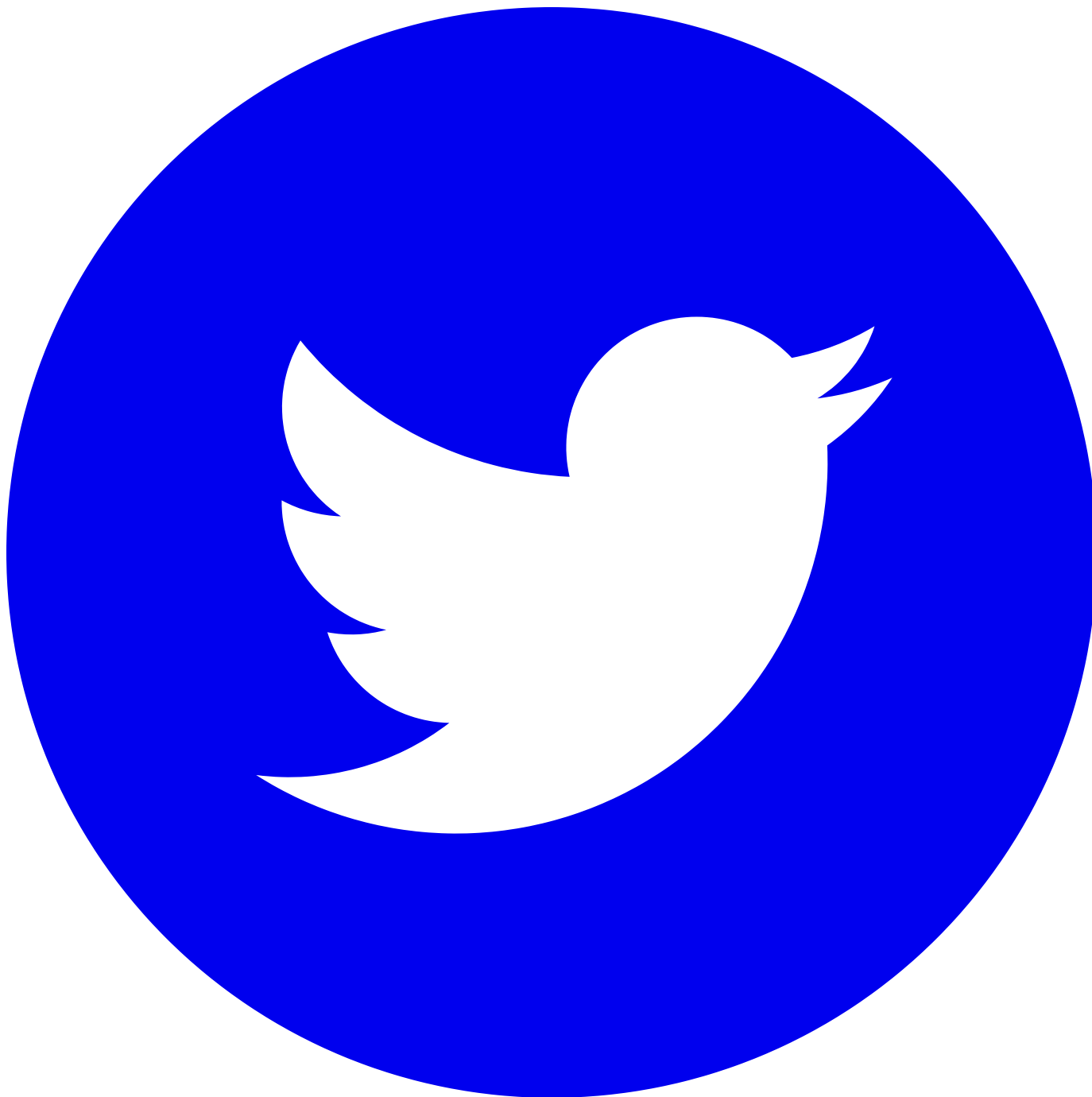
[**Booster doses authorized for those who received Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccine**](#)

[**MDARD encouraging pet owners take precautions after State's first case of SARS-CoV-2
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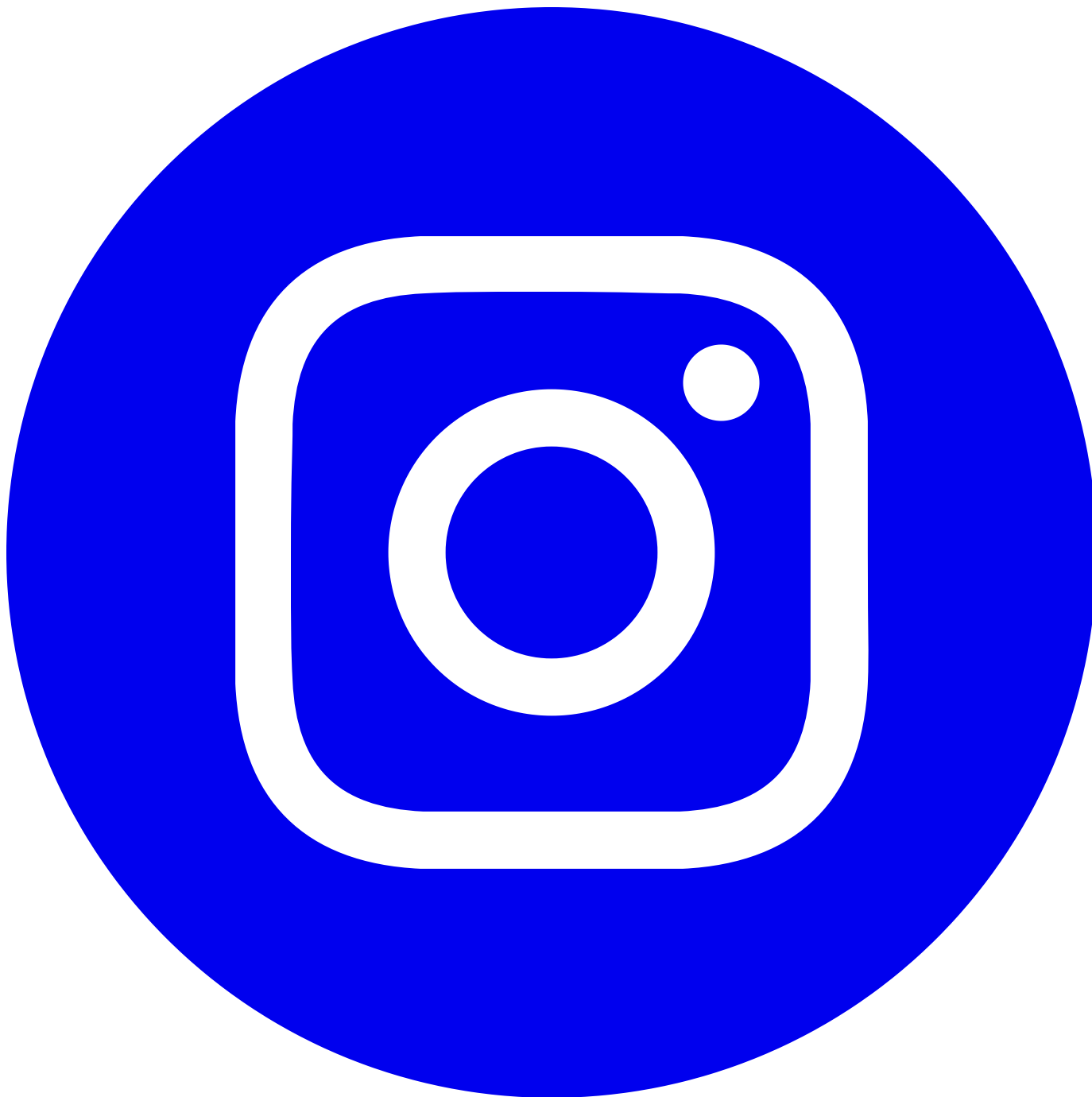


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 Department of Health and Human Services

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

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 Department of Health and Human Services

Questions About COVID-19?

Visit our frequently asked questions page for our most commonly answered questions on COVID-19. You can also call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 or email us at COVID19@michigan.gov.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Get the Latest from the CDC

The United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has more information at a federal level about COVID-19 and our current pandemic. Click the link below to access the federal government's information and resources.

[Visit CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

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