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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Monday, March 16, 2020

**CONTACT:**

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**Statement from Kent County Health Department Director Dr. Adam London**

*Regarding current CDC, State of Michigan and Kent County COVID-19 orders and recommendations*

Over the past few days, several recommendations and orders have been issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of Michigan, and Kent County related to gatherings and business operations in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here is a summary of where we stand as of 12:30 p.m. today:

- The Kent County Health Department Emergency Order, issued on Sunday, March 15, 2020, reducing occupancy loads – or limits – for all licensed food service establishments, entertainment venues and physical fitness centers in Kent County by 50 percent, went into effect today at 10 a.m. (Please check the Kent County Health Department COVID-19 page for a [link](#) to the full text of the Order.)
- Further, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced she will issue an order due to take effect at 3 p.m. today temporarily shutting down restaurants, cafes, coffee houses, bars, taverns, brewpubs, distilleries, clubs, movie theaters, indoor and outdoor performance venues, gymnasiums, fitness centers, recreation centers, indoor sports facilities, indoor exercise facilities, exercise studios, spas, and casinos. This order *does not* restrict a place of business from offering food and beverage using delivery service, window service, walk-up service, drive-through service, or drive-up service. Restaurants may allow five people inside at a time to pick-up orders, so long as they stay six feet apart from each other. This order remains in effect until 11:59 p.m. on March 30, 2020.
- The Governor's March 10 executive order prohibiting assemblages of more than 250 people still stands.
- Additionally, the CDC issued new guidelines last night advising against gatherings of 50 people or more for the next eight weeks. We support the CDC in this recommendation, and we encourage individuals to minimize the size of public gatherings.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

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We want to emphasize this is a fluid situation. Recommendations are changing at the national and state level hour-by-hour. We are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to regularly communicate with the residents of Kent County as we work to stop the spread of this virus.

Please continue to check the Kent County Health Department COVID-19 page for the latest updates:  
<https://www.accesskent.com/Health/coronavirus.htm>.

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