March 23, 2020

GOVERNOR WHITMER ISSUES STAY AT HOME ORDER
CONVENIENCE STORES, GAS STATIONS, TRUCK STOPS &
SUPPORTING DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS CAN CONTINUE TO OPERATE

Governor Gretchen Whitmer today ordered workers deemed nonessential to stay home and prohibited gatherings of any number of people outside of a single household in an escalation of the measures she has put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19.

WHO ARE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS
The stay-at-home order specifically contains exceptions for "critical infrastructure workers" as described by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (see link below) as those necessary to keep up an employer's "minimum basic operations." Gas Stations, Convenience Stores, Truck Stops and the distribution systems that support them are permitted to operate. Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products are also permitted to operate. Deliverable fuels to end users (gas, diesel, propane and heating oil) are considered critical infrastructure and can continue to operate providing essential services to residents, businesses and farms. Automobile repair and maintenance shops (quick lubes) are also considered essential.

WHAT TO DO TO KEEP BUSINESS OPEN
Businesses and operations maintaining in-person activities must adopt social distancing practices and other mitigation measures to protect workers and patrons. Those practices and measures include, but are not limited to:

1. Restricting the number of workers present on premises to no more than is strictly necessary to perform the business’s or operation’s critical infrastructure functions.
2. Promoting remote work to the fullest extent possible.
3. Keeping workers and patrons who are on premises at least six feet from one another to the maximum extent possible, including for customers who are standing in line.
4. Increasing standards of facility cleaning and disinfection to limit worker and patron exposure to COVID-19, as well as adopting protocols to clean and disinfect in the event of a positive COVID-19 case in the workplace.
5. Adopting policies to prevent workers from entering the premises if they display respiratory symptoms or have had contact with a person who is known or suspected to have COVID-19.
6. Any other social distancing practices and mitigation measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

NOTIFYING EMPLOYEES
For purposes of this order, workers who are necessary to conduct minimum basic operations are those whose in-person presence is strictly necessary to allow the business or operation to maintain the value of inventory and equipment, ensure security, process transactions (including payroll and employee benefits), or facilitate the ability of other workers to work remotely. Businesses and operations must determine which of their workers are necessary to conduct minimum basic operations and inform such workers of that designation. Businesses and operations must make such designations in writing, whether by electronic message (email or text message), public website, or other appropriate means. Such designations, however, may be made orally until March 31, 2020 at 11:59 pm.

WHEN DOES ORDER TAKE EFFECT
The order takes effect at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, March 24, 2020 and runs through April 13, 2020 meaning the closure of schools is extended by one week, originally from April 6.

WHAT OTHER THINGS CAN YOU STILL DO
In addition to allowing critical infrastructure workers to continue working, the order still allows people to leave their homes and travel to engage in outdoor activity, provided they stay at least six feet apart, to perform tasks necessary to their health and safety, for their family’s or pet’s health and safety, to obtain necessary supplies like groceries, food, gasoline and medical supplies, to care for a family member or family member’s pet, to attend legal proceedings for essential/emergency purposes as designated by a court, among some other exceptions.

DOCUMENTS
The full Michigan Executive Order can be found at: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIEOG/2020/03/23/file_attachments/1408152/EO%202020-21%20Stay%20Home%20Stay%20Safe.pdf