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Fear of Fuel Dispenser Nozzles Unfounded

*MPA/MACS says fueling vehicles is safe*

*Lansing, MI — 04/17/2020 —* Fueling your vehicle in Michigan is safer today than it has ever been, and those that imply motorists can get COVID-19 from a fuel dispenser nozzle are needlessly spreading fear, according to Mark A. Griffin, President of the Michigan Petroleum Association/Michigan Association of Convenience Stores (MPA/MACS).

With increased efforts gas station and convenience store owners are putting into continual cleaning of their operations to keep their customers and employees safe, it is highly unlikely that a person could get COVID-19 from a gas pump nozzle handle, according to public health experts.

“Gas station and convenience stores are taking extraordinary measures to keep people safe. MPA/MACS members are constantly focused on keeping their stores and equipment clean, as they take very seriously being designated as essential businesses during this pandemic crisis,” said Griffin.

Public health experts have said that a person can be exposed to COVID-19 much more prevalently from direct contact with an infected person than they can from contact with a rubber handle on a gas pump nozzle that is exposed to wind, rain, and sunlight.

“Instead of unfairly blaming gas pumps for spreading this outbreak, gas stations and convenience stores should be praised and supported for voluntarily staying open and continuing to serve our neighbors and first responders,” said Griffin.

“I can’t imagine the desperate situation the people of Michigan would be in if gas stations and convenience stores closed their doors entirely. However, if motorists feel uncertain while fueling, they can wear a glove, use a paper towel or disinfectant wipe, and wash their hands often. We are locally owned and operated businesses who are neighbors serving neighbors,” said Griffin.

The Michigan Petroleum Association/Michigan Association of Convenience Stores is headquartered in Lansing, MI and serves the petroleum wholesale and retail industry statewide. See [www.mpamacs.org](http://www.mpamacs.org) for more information.

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