



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

No. 2020-137

### **Protecting the Food Supply and Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers from the effects of COVID-19**

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. It is caused by a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans and easily spread from person to person. There is currently no approved vaccine or antiviral treatment for this disease.

On March 10, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services identified the first two presumptive-positive cases of COVID-19 in Michigan. On that same day, I issued Executive Order 2020-4. This order declared a state of emergency across the state of Michigan under section 1 of article 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the Emergency Management Act, 1976 PA 390, as amended (EMA), MCL 30.401 et seq., and the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945, 1945 PA 302, as amended (EPGA), MCL 10.31 et seq.

Since then, the virus spread across Michigan, bringing deaths in the thousands, confirmed cases in the tens of thousands, and deep disruption to this state's economy, homes, and educational, civic, social, and religious institutions. On April 1, 2020, in response to the widespread and severe health, economic, and social harms posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I issued Executive Order 2020-33. This order expanded on Executive Order 2020-4 and declared both a state of emergency and a state of disaster across the State of Michigan under section 1 of article 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the Emergency Management Act, and the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945. And on April 30, 2020, finding that COVID-19 had created emergency and disaster conditions across the State of Michigan, I issued Executive Order 2020-67 to continue the emergency declaration under the EPA, as well as Executive Order 2020-68 to issue new emergency and disaster declarations under the EMA.

Those executive orders have been challenged in *Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate v. Whitmer*. On May 21, 2020, the Court of Claims ruled that Executive Order 2020-67 is a valid exercise of authority under the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act but that Executive Order 2020-68 is not a valid exercise of authority under the Emergency Management Act. Both of those rulings are being challenged on appeal.

On June 18, 2020, I issued Executive Order 2020-127, again finding that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a disaster and emergency throughout the State of Michigan. That

order constituted a state of emergency declaration under the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945. And, to the extent the governor may declare a state of emergency and a state of disaster under the Emergency Management Act when emergency and disaster conditions exist yet the legislature had declined to grant an extension request, that order also constituted a state of emergency and state of disaster declaration under that act.

The Emergency Powers of the Governor Act provides a sufficient legal basis for issuing this executive order. In relevant part, it provides that, after declaring a state of emergency, “the governor may promulgate reasonable orders, rules, and regulations as he or she considers necessary to protect life and property or to bring the emergency situation within the affected area under control.” MCL 10.31(1).

Nevertheless, subject to the ongoing litigation and the possibility that current rulings may be overturned or otherwise altered on appeal, I also invoke the Emergency Management Act as a basis for executive action to combat the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the effects of this emergency on the people of Michigan, with the intent to preserve the rights and protections provided by the EMA. The EMA vests the governor with broad powers and duties to “cop[e] with dangers to this state or the people of this state presented by a disaster or emergency,” which the governor may implement through “executive orders, proclamations, and directives having the force and effect of law.” MCL 30.403(1)–(2). This executive order falls within the scope of those powers and duties, and to the extent the governor may declare a state of emergency and a state of disaster under the Emergency Management Act when emergency and disaster conditions exist yet the legislature has not granted an extension request, they too provide a sufficient legal basis for this order.

COVID-19 can spread easily in setting when many people live in close proximity, such as the migrant housing camps that house thousands of migrant agricultural workers in Michigan each year. Migrant agricultural workers are an essential workforce in Michigan and securing their health and well-being will ensure that Michigan’s food supply chain is not disrupted.

Taking preventive measures now will save lives and keep the state’s agricultural sector running smoothly and consistently. Those who provide housing for Michigan’s migrant agricultural workers must implement plans to prevent exposure to the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, care for individuals with COVID-19, and prevent the spread of disease among their workers based on this directive. The state must take proactive, preventive measures to create safer living conditions for migrant workers.

Executive Order 2020-111 provided such protection for migrant workers living in licensed congregate housing. Because it remains reasonable and necessary to ensure the safety of migrant workers as well as the sustainability of Michigan’s food supply, this order continues those requirements until the end of the growing season. With this order, Executive Order 2020-111 is rescinded.

Acting under the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and Michigan law, I order the following:

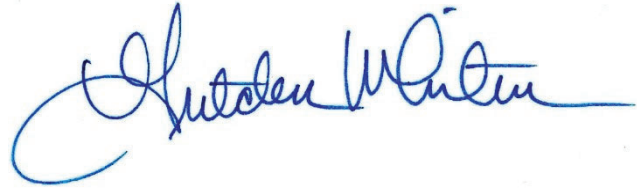
1. All owners and operators of employer-provided migrant housing camps licensed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (“camps”) must comply with section 1 of Executive Order 2020-114 or any order that follows it,

providing camp residents with the same safeguards as businesses are required to provide their workers while at work. Within two weeks of the effective date of this order, a camp must post its COVID-19 preparedness and response plan, consistent with recommendations in Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19, developed by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration and available at <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit owners or operators of employer-provided migrant housing camps to deny access to any person on the basis that the camp is a worksite.

2. In addition to section 1, all camp owners and operators must, at a minimum:
  - (a) Except in single-family housing, separate beds by at least six feet or more in all directions wherever possible, and encourage camp residents to sleep head-to-toe.
  - (b) Provide isolation housing for COVID-19-suspected residents who have not received a positive result from a COVID-19 test, unless the COVID-19-suspected resident resides in a one-family housing unit or in a family living unit that is part of a multifamily unit and can effectively isolate themselves within the unit.
  - (c) Provide housing, dining, and bathroom facilities for COVID-19-confirmed residents separate from residents who are not COVID-19-confirmed. Such facilities may be shared with other COVID-19-confirmed residents.
  - (d) Ensure regular ventilation of rooms where COVID-19-suspected residents are housed (e.g., by opening screened windows to the outside to let fresh air circulate).
  - (e) Ensure that anyone who delivers food and water to isolated residents is equipped with appropriate PPE.
  - (f) Arrange for COVID-19-suspected and COVID-19-confirmed residents to be evaluated by a medical provider through the local health department or federally qualified health center.
  - (g) Attempt to collect emergency contact numbers for each resident.
  - (h) Ensure that camp employees and residents have access to the phone number of the local health department. MiOSHA requires “camp superintendents” (or those providing the housing) to report immediately to the local health officer the name and address of any individual in the camp known to have or suspected of having a communicable disease. (29 CFR 1910.142(l)(1)). Additionally, camp owners and operators must ensure that the name, phone number, and email address of the camp superintendents is posted prominently in a central location.
  - (i) Conspicuously post the address of the camp in a central location and in any isolation housing to ensure that residents will be able to call a 911 operator if needed.

- (j) Conspicuously post the phone number for the Michigan Coronavirus hotline, 888-535-6136, in a central location and in any isolation housing, along with a statement that if residents would like to make a CONFIDENTIAL complaint about unsafe working or employer provided living conditions, they may call the hotline number.
  - (k) Adopt any additional infection control measures consistent with guidance issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”).
3. MDARD must use best efforts to conduct outreach visits to each migrant labor housing camp licensed under Part 124 of the Public Health Code within 20 working days of occupant arrival to review the rules issued pursuant to this order and any relevant DHHS guidance. MDARD may contract with third-party providers to provide these services.
  4. Definitions.
    - (a) “COVID-19-suspected resident” includes a camp resident who has symptoms of COVID-19 but has not yet received a COVID-19 diagnostic test result. Symptoms of COVID-19 include but are not limited to fever, cough, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle pain, chills, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea.
    - (b) “COVID-19-confirmed resident” includes a camp resident who has received a positive result from a COVID-19 diagnostic test and has not subsequently discontinued transmission-based precautions based on a strategy outlined by the CDC. A description of the CDC recommendations for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions may be accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>.
  5. The rules described in sections 1 and 2 have the status of regulations adopted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (“MDARD”). Any challenge to civil or criminal penalties imposed by MDARD for violating any of the rules described in sections 1 and 2 will proceed through the same administrative review process as any challenge to a civil or criminal penalty imposed by the department or agency for a violation of its own rules.
  6. Consistent with MCL 10.33 and MCL 30.405(3), a willful violation of this order is a misdemeanor.
  7. Executive Order 2020-111 is rescinded.
  8. This order is effective upon issuance and remains effective through November 1, 2020 at 11:59 pm, unless rescinded at an earlier time.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Michigan.



Date: June 29, 2020

Time: 8:15 pm

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GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

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SECRETARY OF STATE

## Abby Watkins

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**From:** Kevin Hughes <khughes@dhd10.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 6, 2020 12:38 PM  
**To:** Abby Watkins; Karen Ripke; Bret Haner  
**Cc:** Susie Gatrell (susan.gatrell@spectrumhealth.org); Renee Gavin; newwaygoes; April Pickard; Amanda Lutz (amanda.lutz@spectrumhealth.org)  
**Subject:** RE: Covid testing question

I had reached to that farms HR person on Thursday after a meeting with the Spectrum Gerber folks on this issue. The HR person indicated that she would contact the hiring firm and inform them not to direct workers to the ED for testing – apparently that may not have worked. There are other plans in the works to test farm workers just not sure how long they will take to begin.

Kevin Hughes, MA  
Health Officer  
District Health Department #10  
521 Cobbs Street  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
(231) 876-3839

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**From:** Abby Watkins <abbym@co.newaygo.mi.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 6, 2020 9:55 AM  
**To:** Karen Ripke <kripke@dhd10.org>; Bret Haner <bhaner@dhd10.org>; Kevin Hughes <khughes@dhd10.org>  
**Cc:** Susie Gatrell (susan.gatrell@spectrumhealth.org) <susan.gatrell@spectrumhealth.org>; Renee Gavin <ESDeputyDirector@co.newaygo.mi.us>; newwaygoes <newwaygoes@co.newaygo.mi.us>; April Pickard <aprilp@co.newaygo.mi.us>; Amanda Lutz (amanda.lutz@spectrumhealth.org) <amanda.lutz@spectrumhealth.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Covid testing question  
**Importance:** High

**CAUTION: This email originated outside of DHD#10. Do not click links, reply, or open attachments unless you have verified its authenticity.**

Karen,

This information came in from Susie at Gerber. Can you please advise her what your outreach program is or has been?  
Thank you!

**Abby Watkins, PEM, MEP, MFR**

**Director, Newaygo County Emergency Services**

306 S North St, PO Box 885, White Cloud MI 49349

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Fax: (231) 689-7305

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Email: [abbym@co.newaygo.mi.us](mailto:abbym@co.newaygo.mi.us)

Website: [Http://www.countyofnewaygo.com/emergencyservices.aspx](http://www.countyofnewaygo.com/emergencyservices.aspx)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/newaygoes>



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**From:** Gatrell, Susan M [<mailto:Susan.Gatrell@spectrumhealth.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:06 AM  
**To:** Abby Watkins <[abbym@co.newaygo.mi.us](mailto:abbym@co.newaygo.mi.us)>  
**Subject:** Covid testing question

Abby,

I am seeking some clarification from a community standpoint and was wondering if you could assist or send this to the correct person.

Yesterday in the ED we received multiple Hispanic patients for Covid rapid testing so that they could work at the farm (the nurse thinks it was Arbor farms?). We encouraged them to call the hotline number and they refused which led to a long wait for them d/t an extremely busy ED. We did a PCR not a rapid on these patients as they were asymptomatic. Is there a way to reach out again to the migrant workers on the farms or the farm owners to let them know the process?

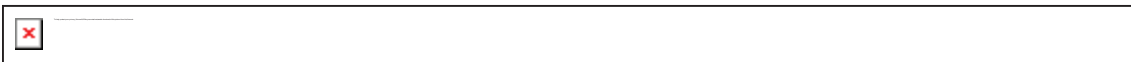
Thank You,  
Susie

Susan (Susie) Gatrell, RN BSN  
Trauma Coordinator  
Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial  
212 S. Sullivan  
Fremont, MI 49412  
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## Abby Watkins

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**From:** Abby Reeg <nc3coordinator@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 6, 2020 2:25 PM  
**To:** nc3serv@ncats.net  
**Subject:** [nc3serv] Newaygo County COA Attends Farmers to Families Food Boxes Program Press Conference / Second Round July 1 - August 31  
**Attachments:** Secretary.jpg; PurdueAndFox.jpg; VanEerden.jpg

On Tuesday, June 30, Joseph Fox, Newaygo County COA Director, was invited to a presentation and press conference at VanEerden Food Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The special guest was Sonny Perdue, United States Secretary of Agriculture (first picture and second picture with Fox). The host was Dan VanEerden, VanEerden Foodservices CEO (third picture).

The focus of the program was on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farmers to Families Food Boxes that are currently being distributed to families and individuals experiencing food scarcity across the United States because of the C-19 situation. This program was developed to move food directly from farmers to tables of people in need. Here is a summary of the program from the USDA website:

As part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Secretary Perdue [announced on April 17](#), USDA is exercising authority under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to purchase and distribute agricultural products to those in need. Through this program, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is partnering with national, regional and local suppliers, whose workforce has been significantly impacted by the closure of restaurants, hotels and other food service businesses, to purchase up to \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy and meat products. The program will supply boxes packaged with fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, meat products and a combination box of fresh produce, dairy or meat products. Suppliers will package these products into family-sized boxes, then transport them to food banks, community and faith-based organizations, and other non-profits serving Americans in need. The [first round](#) of purchases totaling up to \$1.2 billion occurred from May 15 through June 30, 2020. The [second round](#) will aim to purchase up to \$1.47 billion July 1 through August 31, 2020. AMS may elect to extend the period of performance of the contracts, via option periods, dependent upon program success and available remaining funds, up to \$3 billion.

VanEerden Foodservices became a vital link in the distribution chain of these commodities.

Locally, the Newaygo County Commission on Aging (COA) has distributed over 800 of these food boxes to meals-on-wheels participants and other families in need. It is expected that the program will continue into September and possibly longer. For further information about the Produce Boxes, Meals-on-Wheels, and other older adult services in Newaygo County, please call the COA (231-689-2100).

###

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Abby Reeg, MA  
Executive Director  
**Newaygo County Community Collaborative (NC3)**  
[www.newaygocountycc.org](http://www.newaygocountycc.org)  
[NC3coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:NC3coordinator@gmail.com)

c/o TrueNorth Community Services  
6308 S Warner  
PO Box 149  
Fremont, MI 49412

Office 231-924-0641 x 132  
Mobile 616-566-4844

Mission: To collaboratively develop and deliver effective community-based human services within Newaygo County.

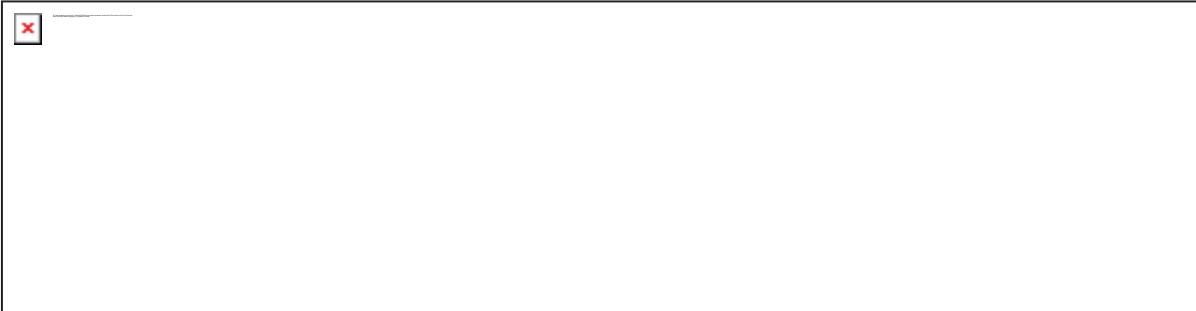
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## Abby Watkins

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**From:** Michigan State Police <MichStatePolice@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:48 AM  
**To:** Abby Watkins  
**Subject:** NEWS RELEASE: \$15 Million in Agricultural Safety Grants to Provide Critical Relief to Michigan's Farms and Food Processors



### **\$15 Million in Agricultural Safety Grants to Provide Critical Relief to Michigan's Farms and Food Processors**

**LANSING, MICH.** Fifteen million dollars in economic assistance for Michigan farms and agricultural processors, to mitigate risks of the COVID-19 virus across the state's food production industry, gained approval from the Michigan Strategic Fund, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) announced today.

"Michigan's food and agriculture sector has been especially hard hit by the COVID-19 virus, and this investment will provide critical resources to ensure the safety of the state's food production industry and its workforce," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "We can further our economic recovery in the state by putting federal dollars through the CARES Act to work for the people and business across Michigan through efforts like these grants to farms and food processors."

In response to the economic impact of COVID-19, the State of Michigan has appropriated \$15 million of federal CARES Act funding through SB 690, signed into law by Governor Whitmer last week, to implement the [Michigan Agricultural Safety Grant Program](#). These grants will provide much needed funding to Michigan's agricultural processors and farms in support of this critical industry in the state.

The Michigan Agricultural Safety Grants are divided between agricultural processors and farms:

- \$10 million in grants will be provided to processors statewide, with a minimum grant of \$10,000 and a maximum grant of \$200,000.
- \$5 million in grants will be available to farms statewide, with a minimum grant of \$10,000 and a maximum grant of \$50,000.

Applicants must apply as either a processor or a farm – but not both – and funds will provide grants of up to \$1,000 per employee to fund COVID-19 mitigation costs, including but not limited to testing costs, personal protection equipment, facility needs, increased sanitation costs, employee training, and upgraded safety procedures for farm-provided housing.

"Employee testing and PPE continue to be a great need both on the farm and in the processing industry," said MDARD Director Gary McDowell. "These financial resources will provide much-

needed services and equipment to an already struggling sector. Having adequate testing and PPE is critical to ensuring the safety of Michigan’s food and agriculture workforce—whether domestic or migrant labor—as well as maintaining a safe and wholesome food supply.”

The program will cover costs incurred from June 1, 2020 through September 15, 2020 and eligible applicants will be able to apply for funding beginning on July 15, 2020. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis until all funding has been awarded.

Applications will be processed by East Lansing-based GreenStone Farm Credit Services, one of America’s largest rural lenders, including 31 branches in Michigan. GreenStone has a 100-year track record providing financial services to the agricultural industry – including short, intermediate and long-term loans, equipment and building leases, life insurance, crop insurance, accounting and tax services.

GreenStone will host the application portal, complete an initial screening of all applications and supporting documentation and recommend applications to the MEDC for final approval and disbursements of the grants awarded. GreenStone will also provide a report to the MEDC of all applications that were denied in the review process. The authorizing legislation for the program also requires reporting on October 15, 2020 to the Legislature and State Budget Office on the Agricultural Safety Grant Program’s results, and that report will also be available on [michiganbusiness.org/agsafety](http://michiganbusiness.org/agsafety).

“The foundation of GreenStone is built on supporting rural communities and agriculture. That means more than the loan products and financial services we provide, and this partnership with MEDC is a special opportunity to help all of agriculture,” said Dave Armstrong, President and CEO of GreenStone Farm Credit Services. We are pleased to have the depth of experience and relationships with our members to know we can meet the needs of this program to benefit the many farmers and agribusinesses feeling the effects from the Coronavirus pandemic.”

To qualify for grant support, applicants must be a farm or agricultural processor located in Michigan and meet the following requirements:

- A minimum of 10 employees in Michigan, with supporting documentation.
- Provide proof of good standing with the state of Michigan, as applicable (Certificate of Good Standing).
- Attest that the business is current on all state, local and real estate taxes, or is otherwise contesting them in good faith.

“We are continuing to leverage every resource available – whether federal, state or local – to ensure our small businesses across Michigan are able to receive the support they need to not only survive COVID-19, but be in a position to thrive and drive economic recovery moving forward,” said Mark A. Burton, CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. “Working in partnership with MDARD and GreenStone, we are confident we can get this critical support into the hands our farms and agricultural processors quickly and effectively to keep our workers and our food supply safe.”

According to MDARD, food and agriculture contributes \$104.7 billion annually to Michigan’s economy, and represents 805,000 jobs statewide. Additionally, Michigan exports approximately \$1.8 billion of food and agriculture products each year.

“The health and well-being of employees is the top priority for Michigan’s agribusinesses, and these new grants support ongoing safety efforts across our state’s agriculture sector,” said Chuck Lippstreu, president of the Michigan Agri-Business Association. “We applaud the Governor and leaders in the Legislature for working together on a bipartisan basis to secure this critical funding, providing welcome assistance for businesses across Michigan agriculture.”

The Michigan Strategic Fund today also approved the [Michigan Small Business Restart Program](#), which will provide a total of \$100 million to small businesses in Michigan as they work to reduce the

negative economic impact of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The grants will be administrated by 15 regional economic development organizations throughout the state, which combined cover all 83 counties in Michigan. To learn more, visit here: [https://www.michiganbusiness.org/press-releases/2020/07/michigan-small-business-restart-program-to-provide-\\$100-million-in-grants-for-covid-19-recovery-efforts](https://www.michiganbusiness.org/press-releases/2020/07/michigan-small-business-restart-program-to-provide-$100-million-in-grants-for-covid-19-recovery-efforts).

With today's action by the MSF Board, the MEDC has launched 17 COVID-19 relief and recovery programs supporting more than 3,100 business in the state and helping to retain more than 12,400 jobs across all 83 counties. To learn more about MEDC's COVID-19 response programs and the impact they are having on economic recovery efforts, visit [michiganbusiness.org/covid19response](http://michiganbusiness.org/covid19response). Other resources for economic reopening efforts as well as businesses across Michigan struggling with economic losses as a result of the COVID-19 virus can be found online at [michiganbusiness.org/covid19](http://michiganbusiness.org/covid19). The MEDC has also developed a FAQ for Michigan businesses and communities at [michiganbusiness.org/covid19-faq](http://michiganbusiness.org/covid19-faq).

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](http://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](http://CDC.gov/Coronavirus).

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#### **About Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)**

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is the state's marketing arm and lead advocate for business development, job awareness and community development with the focus on growing Michigan's economy. For more information on the MEDC and our initiatives, visit [www.MichiganBusiness.org](http://www.MichiganBusiness.org). For Pure Michigan® tourism information, your trip begins at [www.michigan.org](http://www.michigan.org). Join the conversation on: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

#### **About GreenStone Farm Credit Services**

Headquartered in East Lansing, GreenStone Farm Credit Services is Michigan and northeast Wisconsin's largest agricultural lender and one of the country's largest associations in the Farm Credit System. A member-owned cooperative, GreenStone owns and manages \$10 billion in assets and serves over 25,000 members with 36 branch locations. More information on GreenStone is available at [www.greenstonefcs.com](http://www.greenstonefcs.com).

GreenStone provides financial services to the agricultural industry - including short, intermediate and long-term loans, equipment and building leases, life insurance, crop insurance, accounting and tax services. GreenStone also specializes in residential and country home loans, and provides lending products for the purchase, improvement, construction or refinance of residences along with financing future home sites and recreational land.

Media Contact: [Otie McKinley](#)

- [JIC News Release 281 \\$15 million in agricultural safety grants to provide critical relief to Michigans farms and food processors.pdf](#)



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## Abby Watkins

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**From:** Michigan State Police <MichStatePolice@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 12:00 PM  
**To:** Abby Watkins  
**Subject:** NEWS RELEASE: \$1.25 Million in New Grant Funding Available from Michigan Economic Development Corporation to Assist Michigan's Small Farms Implement COVID-19 Safety Measures



### **\$1.25 Million in New Grant Funding Available from Michigan Economic Development Corporation to Assist Michigan's Small Farms Implement COVID-19 Safety Measures**

**LANSING, MICH.** As a result of high demand for the Michigan Agricultural Safety Grant program, and a clear need to help small farms mitigate risks of the COVID-19 virus in their operation, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation today announced it will begin accepting applications for the MEDC Small Farm Safety Grant program at 9 a.m. EST on Tuesday, July 21, at [michiganbusiness.org/agsafety](http://michiganbusiness.org/agsafety).

Modeled after the [Michigan Agricultural Safety Grant](#) program launched on July 15 using federal CARES Act funding, the MEDC Small Farm Safety Grant program will award \$1.25 million in grants to farms with less than 10 employees to fund COVID-19 mitigation costs. These include but are not limited to testing costs, personal protection equipment, facility needs, increased sanitation costs, employee training, and upgraded safety procedures for farm-provided housing.

"We saw an opportunity to respond to clear need for support from Michigan's small farms to build on the tremendous response from farms and food processors across the state applying for Michigan Agricultural Safety Grants," said Mark A. Burton, CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. "The MEDC Small Farm Safety Grant will allow us additional security in our food industry and provide much-needed relief to farmers across Michigan."

Grants will be limited to \$1,000 per employee, and the program will cover costs incurred from June 1, 2020 through Sept. 15, 2020. Eligible applicants will be able to apply for funding starting Tuesday, July 21, at 9 a.m. EST at [michiganbusiness.org/agsafety](http://michiganbusiness.org/agsafety). Grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis until all funding has been awarded.

To qualify for grant support, applicants must be a farm located in Michigan and meet the following requirements:

- Less than 10 employees in Michigan, with supporting documentation.
- Provide proof of good standing with the state of Michigan, as applicable (Certificate of Good Standing).

- Attest that the business is current on all state, local and real estate taxes, or is otherwise contesting them in good faith.
- Have completed registration in the State of Michigan Integrated Governmental Management Applications (SIGMA) Vendor Self-Service website prior to applying for grant funding.

"Just like other small businesses, small farms and food processors are the backbone of the food and agriculture industry and are fundamental to our entire food supply chain," said Gary McDowell, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Michigan continues to be a leader in supporting the state's farming community throughout COVID-19. MEDC's quick response to help our small farmers meet their health and safety needs is a perfect example of that commitment."

According to MDARD, food and agriculture contributes \$104.7 billion annually to Michigan's economy, and represents 805,000 jobs statewide. Additionally, Michigan exports approximately \$1.8 billion of food and agriculture products each year.

Applications will be processed by East Lansing-based GreenStone Farm Credit Services, one of America's largest rural lenders, including 31 branches in Michigan. GreenStone has a 100-year track record providing financial services to the agricultural industry – including short, intermediate, and long-term loans; equipment and building leases; life insurance; crop insurance; accounting; and tax services.

GreenStone will host the application portal; complete an initial screening of all applications and supporting documentation; and recommend applications to the MEDC for final approval and disbursements of the grants awarded.

"After just a few weeks to get the Michigan Agricultural Safety Grant program off the ground, it's energizing to see MEDC's adaptability to find additional resources to support farms with less than 10 employees," said Dave Armstrong, GreenStone President and CEO. "Agriculture is a diverse industry – particularly in Michigan – and the next few months are critical times for many of the commodities grown here. The MEDC Small Farm Safety Grant program will inject essential support to this important part of the agricultural industry. Our GreenStone team is committed to working vigorously to get them the support they need."

For farms and agricultural processors with 10 employees or more, applications are still being accepted for the \$15 million Michigan Agricultural Safety Grant program using federal CARES Act funding. Other related resources available to support Michigan employers in obtaining needed Personal Protection Equipment include MEDC's [Pure Michigan Business Connect COVID-19 Procurement Platform](#) – a procurement program to assist businesses in accessing non-medical grade PPE to keep their employees and customers safe as they begin resuming in-person operations.

The \$100 million [Michigan Small Business Restart Program](#) application process is also accepting applications at [michiganbusiness.org/restart](https://michiganbusiness.org/restart). The program will provide grants to small businesses around the state that are reopening and have experienced a loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Farms and food processors with fewer than 10 employees and that meet all other eligibility requirements would be able to apply for a grant through the Michigan Small Business Restart Program.

To date, MEDC has now launched 18 COVID-19 relief and recovery programs supporting more than 3,400 businesses in the state and helping to retain more than 14,700 jobs across all 83 counties. To learn more about MEDC's COVID-19 response programs and the impact they are having on economic recovery efforts, visit [michiganbusiness.org/covid19response](https://michiganbusiness.org/covid19response). Other resources for economic reopening efforts as well as businesses across Michigan struggling with economic losses as a result of the COVID-19 virus can be found online at [michiganbusiness.org/covid19](https://michiganbusiness.org/covid19).



Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://CDC.gov/Coronavirus).

###

**About Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)**

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is the state's marketing arm and lead advocate for business development, job awareness and community development with the focus on growing Michigan's economy. For more information on the MEDC and our initiatives, visit [www.MichiganBusiness.org](https://www.MichiganBusiness.org). For Pure Michigan® tourism information, your trip begins at [www.michigan.org](https://www.michigan.org). Join the conversation on: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

Media Contact: [Kathleen Achtenberg](#)

- [JIC News Release 296 \\$1.25 Million in New Grant Funding Available from Michigan Economic Development Corporation to Assist Michigans Small Farms Implement COVID.pdf](#)



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## Abby Watkins

---

**From:** Abby Reeg <nc3coordinator@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2020 10:57 AM  
**To:** nc3serv@ncats.net  
**Subject:** [nc3serv] MDARD launches ag disaster GIS viewer for state's farming community



For immediate release: August 14, 2020  
Media contact: [Jennifer Holton](#), 517-284-5724

### **MDARD launches ag disaster GIS viewer for state's farming community**

LANSING – Michigan's farming community is certainly no stranger to the challenges thrown at it by Mother Nature. Thankfully, there are several programs to help farmers weather those challenges.

In order to help the state's farmers more easily identify if their county falls within a declared disaster area, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development launched a Geographic Information System ([GIS](#)) viewer providing a one-stop portal of data.

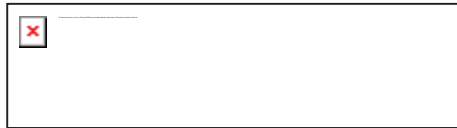
GIS allows MDARD to take different types of data sets and turn it into an easy to understand visual like a map.

"Extreme weather conditions such as drought, deep freezes or flooding impacts our farmers' ability to planting, harvest or tend to their crops, financial assistance programs can be a critical lifeline," said MDARD Director Gary McDowell. "We wanted to ensure that they could quickly and easily identify programs in their area. I am encouraging farmers to bookmark this viewer for future use."

Using data from resources like Michigan State University Extension and the United States Department of Agriculture, MDARD was able to use GIS software to develop a map with the resources available. The viewer will be constantly updated as new information and aid is identified.

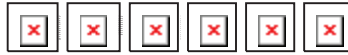
For information regarding crop disaster resources, visit [Michigan.gov/CropDisaster](http://Michigan.gov/CropDisaster).

###



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--

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PO Box 149  
Fremont, MI 49412

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Mobile 616-566-4844

Mission: To collaboratively develop and deliver effective community-based human services within Newaygo County.

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# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**No. 310 – Aug. 3, 2020**

**For more information contact:**  
[Lynn Sutfin](#)  
517-241-2112

### **MDHHS Issues Order Requiring Testing of Agricultural and Food Processing Employees to Protect Health and Safety of Workers, Community**

**LANSING, MICH.** Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Robert Gordon has issued an [Emergency Order](#) requiring COVID-19 testing for agricultural and food processing employees. The order makes Michigan a national leader in COVID-19 safety protections for agricultural and migrant workers, building on Executive Orders from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer requiring workplace safety measures in meat and poultry processing plants and safe housing for COVID positive migrant workers.

“The men and women who work in our fields and food processing plants are at particular risk for COVID-19, and they need and deserve protection,” said Gordon. “Today’s order will help to reduce the spread of COVID in communities across Michigan and reduce the pandemic’s disparate impact on Latinos.”

In recent weeks, there have been 11 identified outbreaks in farms and food processing plants in Michigan. In addition, Latinos are 5 percent of Michigan’s population but represent 11 percent of COVID cases in which the individual’s ethnicity is identified.

The order 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 department will work with employers and housing operators to ensure timely reporting of testing data and access to PPE so that together we can prevent further viral spread,” Gordon said.

“Ensuring the health and safety of Michigan’s essential food and agriculture workers is paramount to keeping our food supply chain moving,” said Gary McDowell, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. “These workers are our frontline staff who are a vital part of bringing our food from farm to plate.”

"It is critical that we keep our workers and their families across the food and agriculture industry safe and healthy," said John Cakmakci, president of UFCW Local 951. "I applaud Directors Gordon and McDowell for their efforts to protect the people of Michigan and our economy."

[On July 28, the American Farm Bureau Federation and 30 U.S. produce industry organizations urged Congress to provide additional resources to assist growers in protecting their workforce from COVID-19.](#)

In a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, the organizations requested additional access and resources for farmers to allow testing for farmworkers, priority access to PPE supplies and access to vaccine and/or medicines once available.

"Vital to these efforts have been the hardworking, skilled men and women who grow, harvest and ship our food – the farmworkers," the letter stated. "Collectively, we represent farmers who grow the majority of our nation's fruits, vegetables and tree nuts. They place the highest priority on the health and safety of their employees, taking extraordinary measures to insulate their employees from the risks of exposure to COVID-19."

Employers and housing operators must complete a plan by Aug. 10 for how they will conduct testing in compliance with this order. Completion of baseline testing and implementation of ongoing testing is required no later than Aug. 24.

Employers and housing operators have several options for completing the required testing, including contracting with a medical provider, occupational health provider or laboratory to arrange a testing program; requesting state assistance to conduct testing; or utilizing testing resources in the broader community. The state will provide testing support for employers or housing operators as its capacity allows and assist facilities in identifying other sources of testing capacity as needed.

MDHHS also released a [guidance document](#) for employers providing step-by-step information on how employers can complete testing and highlighting resources like grant funding and insurance coverage through Medicaid that can provide financial support for testing.

COVID positive and exposed residents would be required to isolate or quarantine until meeting the return-to-work criteria from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. MDHHS will be partnering with Community Action Agencies in impacted communities in order to provide food, housing, and economic support for workers who lose income due to testing.

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](https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus).

###

## Abby Watkins

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**From:** Abby Watkins  
**Sent:** Monday, August 3, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Renee Gavin  
**Subject:** FW: FYI - news release on migrant testing  
**Attachments:** JIC News Release 310 Emergency Order for Ag and food worker testing.doc

**Abby Watkins, PEM, MEP, MFR**

**Director, Newaygo County Emergency Services**

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**Cc:** Blake, Alvin <alvin.blake@fema.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** FW: FYI - news release on migrant testing

FYI –

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## Abby Watkins

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**To:** Allison Farole; Derek Schroeder; esmith@montcalm.us; Fred Cantu; Jennifer Robinson; Jerry Becker; Jim Duram - Oceana Co EM (emergencymanagement@oceana.mi.us); Julie Adams; Leah DeLano (ldelano@miottawa.org); Liz Reimink; Lou Hunt; Marc Griffis; Mark Watkins; nbonstell; Patrick Maddox ; Renee Gavin; Richard Warner (warnerri@co.muskegon.mi.us); Scott Schroeder; Stacey Hayner; Stacy Madden; Stan Hoskins; Tom Raymond; Abby Watkins  
**Subject:** FW: EO 2020-137, Emerg order - migrant worker protections (re-issue)  
**Attachments:** EO 2020-137 Emerg order - migrant worker protections - re-issue (final signed).pdf; ATT00001.htm

EO on migrant worker protections, re-issue.

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**Subject:** FW: EO 2020-137, Emerg order - migrant worker protections (re-issue)

SEMC's,

Please find attached EO 2020-137, which rescinds and replaces EO 2020-111 on migrant worker protections.

Lt. Michele Sosinski  
Operations Section Chief  
State Emergency Operations Center  
Michigan State Police  
Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division  
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## Abby Watkins

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**From:** Michigan Executive Office of the Governor <mieog@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2020 8:38 PM  
**To:** Abby Watkins  
**Subject:** RELEASE: Governor Whitmer Signs Executive Orders Modifying Telehealth Options and Extending Protections for Migrant Agricultural Workers



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2020

Contact: [press@michigan.gov](mailto:press@michigan.gov)

## Governor Whitmer Signs Executive Orders Modifying Telehealth Options and Extending Protections for Migrant Agricultural Workers

**LANSING, Mich.** — Governor Gretchen Whitmer today signed Executive Order 2020-138 and Executive Order 2020-137 to increase access to healthcare through telehealth options and protect migrant agricultural workers living in congregate housing from the risk of outbreaks.

Executive Order 2020-138 rescinds and replaces the governor's previous order on telehealth, 2020-86, and removes provisions no longer needed after the governor signed House Bills 5412, 5413, 5414, 5415 and 5416.

"Last week, I was proud to sign the bipartisan bill package that will increase telehealth access. I am prepared to continue to work with the Legislature on appropriate legislation to suppress the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the effects of this global pandemic on the people of Michigan." said **Governor Whitmer**. "But COVID-19 is still present in Michigan, and it remains necessary to continue to promote the use of telehealth services to limit exposure and protect against the virus."

Executive Order 2020-137 extends her previous order and takes effect immediately and continues until the end of the growing season on November 1, 2020. The order requires owners and operators of employer-provided migrant housing licensed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) provide residents with the same safeguards businesses are required to provide workers under Executive Order 2020-97. This includes creating a COVID-19 response plan, providing Personal Protective Equipment and following social distancing measures.

“Michigan’s migrant agricultural workers are a critical part of our workforce and state as a whole,” said **Governor Whitmer**. “By extending this executive order we can protect migrant agricultural workers from outbreaks, and protect Michiganders continue to have access to healthy and nutritious food grown right here in our state.”

Housing owners and operators must:

- Separate beds by at least 6 feet or more in all directions wherever possible and encourage residents to sleep head-to-toe, except in single-family housing
- Provide isolation housing for COVID-19-infection who have not received a positive result from a COVID-19 test, unless the resident resides in a single-family housing unit or family living unit that is part of a multifamily unit and can effectively isolate themselves.
- Provide housing, dining and bathroom facilities for COVID-19-confirmed residents separate from residents who are not COVID-19-confirmed.
- Ensure regular ventilation of rooms where COVID-19-affected residents are housed.
- Ensure anyone who delivers food and water to isolated residents is equipped with appropriate PPE.
- Arrange for COVID-19-affected residents to be evaluated by a medical provider through the local health department or federally qualified health center.
- Adopt any additional infection control measures consistent with guidance issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Housing owners and operators must continue to allow aid organizations and state regulators to access migrant housing to ensure that residents receive appropriate social services and protections.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://CDC.gov/Coronavirus).

To view Executive Order 2020-137 and 2020-138, click the links below:

- [EO 2020-138 Emerg order - telehealth - re-issue.pdf](#)
- [EO 2020-137 Emerg order - migrant worker protections - re-issue.pdf](#)

###

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## Abby Watkins

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**From:** Abby Reeg <nc3coordinator@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:03 AM  
**To:** nc3serv@ncats.net  
**Subject:** [nc3serv] Still time for seniors to participate in the Produce Boxes Program

NC3:

Do you know someone age 60+ in Newaygo County who could use fresh produce? There is still time for people to receive USDA Produce Boxes coordinated by the Newaygo County Commission on Aging. There is no income guideline to participate. [Learn more in this interview with Allison Maat.](#)

Abby

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Abby Reeg, MA  
Executive Director  
**Newaygo County Community Collaborative (NC3)**  
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Mission: To collaboratively develop and deliver effective community-based human services within Newaygo County.

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