

State of Michigan

Coronavirus Response- Policies to Fight For

This document is intended to be a comprehensive, but not tedious, collection of measures and policies that organizers and communities across Michigan can develop their own messaging around in order to apply public pressure on legislators.

In order to protect our communities during this unprecedented pandemic, the State of Michigan must implement measures to avoid the deaths and suffering of vulnerable populations. It's time for our government to take a strong stand, and create emergency policies when we need them the most. Our society is on hold; we must protect ourselves and each other.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Our State's top priority should be the prevention, testing, treatment, and containment of this pandemic for ALL persons. If anyone is left out of this process, it puts our entire population at risk.

WE MUST HAVE:

- **A Pandemic Outbreak Fund to be immediately established** that provides for medical testing, treatment, quarantine, and lost wages for those without medical insurance.
- A requirement for **health insurers in Michigan to waive copays, deductibles**, and other at-service costs for medical testing, treatment, and quarantine.
- **Lost wages must be covered** even with prevention measures, when coronavirus infection may not be confirmed.
- All **uninsured persons be eligible for free testing, treatment, & quarantine**- including undocumented persons or otherwise ineligible persons. Undocumented persons must be guaranteed confidential treatment.
- **Supplementary funds** for covering the costs of delivery fees, copays, deductibles, and other at-service **costs for prescriptions and medical supplies** that persons need during the outbreak. For uninsured persons, the cost of delivery and prescriptions and medical supplies must be covered.

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

With unprecedented changes, most recently the closure of K-12 schools for three weeks, the State of Michigan must provide immediate relief and assistance to all vulnerable

persons. We must prevent economic collapse and panic- which could lead to civil unrest, violence, and further exposure to COVID-19.

WE MUST HAVE:

- **Moratoriums on evictions & foreclosure**, as well as mandatory extensions of all leases, both for businesses and residential tenants.
- **Moratoriums on all utility shutoffs-** as well as internet and phone service.
- Moratoriums on all public assistance work & reporting requirements and deadlines.
- Moratoriums on all Civil & Criminal fines and fees to be paid to the State.
- **Mandatory paid sick leave** for all experiencing symptoms or practicing isolation/prevention protocols
- **Mandatory paid time off for all workers paid for by their employer** (including non-employees, both hourly and wage, seasonal, at-will, temporary, independent contractors, etc.)
 - **Small businesses** can opt for their workers to receive the unemployment option instead
 - **Tipped workers** must be paid at least at the state minimum level.
- **Emergency, immediate unemployment benefits to**
 - Laid off workers
 - Independent contractors that cannot complete tasks
 - Small business owners unable to operate
 - All other people out-of-work not receiving pay through their employer
 - Waiving of job-searching requirements during pandemic

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Certain practices and normal operations that the State undertakes cannot continue in their current form during the pandemic. We must ensure that likely sites for disease transmission are closed immediately- and also ensure that no Michigan person is penalized for missing deadlines, expirations, fees or fines during the time of the outbreak.

WE MUST:

- Establish **safe food distribution sites** that practice CDC recommendations for preventing the spread of COVID-19.
 - Citizens may volunteer, but must be trained and provided with disease prevention gear.
 - Mobilization of school infrastructure and resources (school buses, employees) to aid with food distribution and delivery.

- Order **mandatory closure of all malls and retail establishments that sell products not essential for living**, with a broad exception to food establishments, gas stations, and pharmacies.
 - Food establishments must have **paid sick time** for employees, including at least the state hourly minimum for tipped workers.
- Halt Secretary of State in-person transactions
 - Impose **moratorium on fines, fees, deadlines, expirations**, etc.
 - Expand online and telephone services
- Halt Unemployment/Public Assistance agency in-person transactions
 - Impose **moratorium on fines, fees, deadlines, expirations**, etc.
 - Expand online and telephone services
- Incarcerated persons/detainees
 - **Moratorium of all court dates, fines, fees, trials, hearings**, etc in both criminal and civil court.
 - Moratorium of arrests for nonviolent misdemeanors. Instead, issuance of a citation with a future arraignment date is directed.
 - All those awaiting trial due to an inability to post bail to be **immediately released** to await trial, and no new cash bail should be imposed in new cases throughout the pandemic.

HEALTHCARE WORKERS & VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Healthcare workers across all facilities and in all capacities are our most important line of defense during this outbreak and must have their needs met, and their health needs taken into the greatest consideration. We must consider our vulnerable communities at this time, and take great care to not cut people out or leave them behind when it comes to policies for health, safety, and welfare.

- **Healthcare workers MUST have access to paid sick time** after PTO is exhausted, regardless of the employer's system, as well as free/reduced cost child care.
 - Includes staff working at:
 - Homeless shelters
 - Nursing Homes
 - Assisted Living Facilities
 - In-home medical care providers
 - Domestic violence shelters
 - Food banks/soup kitchens
 - Group homes
 - Foster care facilities
 - Jails
 - Prisons
 - Detention Centers
 - Childcare centers
- Increased sanitization/isolation efforts:

- Public transportation
- Postal workers
- Social workers
- Facilities:
 - Homeless shelters
 - Nursing Homes
 - Assisted Living Facilities
 - Domestic violence shelters
 - Food banks/soup kitchens
 - Group homes
 - Foster care facilities
 - Jails
 - Prisons
 - Detention Centers
 - Childcare centers
- **Free/reduced-cost childcare** for staff at the aforementioned places of employment