

# CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

You may not reproduce, display on a website, distribute, sell or republish this article or data, or the information contained therein, without prior written consent. This printout and/or PDF is for personal usage only and not for any promotional usage. © Crain Communications Inc.

May 19, 2020 07:38 AM

## Reopening a business in Michigan? Here are the minimum regulatory requirements

CHAD LIVENGOOD  

Dustin Walsh/Crain's Detroit Business

Safety protocols at reopening businesses include staying 6 feet apart whenever possible and wearing face masks.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed an executive order Monday laying out extensive workplace safety requirements for businesses to adhere to as they reopen after the two-month coronavirus pandemic shutdown.

Businesses that are reopening for in-person activities are required to submit a COVID-19 preparedness and response plan by June 1 or within two weeks of reopening to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity that's consistent with Occupational Health and Safety Administration [regulations](#), Whitmer said Monday.

Northern Michigan restaurants, bars, retail stores and offices reopening Friday will have two weeks to develop a written plan that "must be made readily available to employees, labor unions and customers" online or a printed copy, according to Whitmer's [Executive Order No. 91](#).

Here are 10 requirements spelled out in Whitmer's executive order that all businesses must adhere to:

1. Businesses have to provide training workplace infection-control practices, reporting unsafe work conditions, how to properly use personal protective equipment (PPE) and steps for notifying supervisors that they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have a suspected or confirmed diagnosis.
2. Businesses must have protocols in place for cleaning and disinfecting a workplace in the event that an employee or contractor tests positive for COVID-19.

3. They also must make cleaning supplies "available to employees upon entry" and "provide time for employees to wash hands frequently or to use hand sanitizer."
4. When an employee tests positive for COVID-19, the employer is required to contact the local health department and "any coworkers, contractors or suppliers who may have come into contact with the person."
5. All employees or contractors entering a workplace are required to go through a daily self-screening of their current health conditions and whether they've had a "suspected or confirmed exposure to people with possible COVID-19." Employers are required to keep records of the daily health screenings, according to the order.
6. Employers must provide non-medical grade masks to all employees. Surgical and N95 masks remain reserved for health care professionals to preserve PPE supplies for front-line workers.
7. Employers also are required to encourage employees to wear gloves, masks and use hand sanitizer when using public transportation to get to work.
8. Employers are to keep workers at least 6 feet apart "to the maximum extent possible." When they can't be more than 6 feet apart, employees are required to wear face masks. When workers have to be within 3 feet of each other, employers should "consider" providing face shields, according to the governor's order.
9. Businesses are to restrict business-related travel for "essential" purposes only and "promote" remote working.
10. Employers are prohibited from firing, disciplining "or otherwise retaliating against employees who stay home or who leave work when they are at particular risk of infecting others with COVID-19."

The governor's executive order also has COVID-19 regulations for specific industries and sectors that are permitted to be open, including retailers, office buildings, restaurants, manufacturing facilities and research laboratories.

## **Restaurants**

Restaurants in 17 counties in the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula that are permitted to reopen Friday at 50 percent capacity will have to close their waiting areas and "ask customers to wait in cars for a call when their table is ready."

Self-serve salad bars have to remain closed and hosts and servers are required to wear face masks inside the dining room of each restaurant or bar, according to Whitmer's order.

The order also requires restaurants to close "immediately if an employee shows multiple symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, atypical shortness of breath, atypical cough) and perform a

deep clean, consistent with guidance from FDA and the Center for Disease Control." The deep cleaning can occur overnight, according to the order.

### **In the office, factories**

In office workplace settings, water fountains must be turned off and face-coverings will be required for in-person meetings and in restrooms and hallways, according to the order.

Manufacturing facilities must implement additional work shift schedules to reduce the number of people in a facility at one time, as well as stagger break times and lunch hours.

The order also requires manufacturers to "reduce congestion in common spaces wherever practicable by, for example, closing salad bars and buffets within cafeterias and kitchens, requiring individuals to sit at least six feet from one another, placing markings on the floor to allow social distancing while standing in line, offering boxed food via delivery or pick-up points, and reducing cash payments."

When a worker in a manufacturing facility tests positive for COVID-19, the company is required to "maintain a central log for symptomatic employees or employees who received a positive test for COVID-19" and "send potentially exposed individuals home upon identification of a positive case of COVID-19 in the facility."

Whitmer's order also says "manufacturing facilities must ... suspend all non-essential in-person visits, including tours."

The governor's office said Tuesday that President Donald Trump's planned tour Thursday of Ford Motor Co.'s Ypsilanti component plant **"is contrary to the governor's order,"** but the state is not going to get in the way of the presidential visit.

Read the full executive order here:



Inline Play

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.crainsdetroit.com/coronavirus/reopening-business-michigan-here-are-minimum-regulatory-requirements>