



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF OTTAWA  
OTTAWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ORDER FINDING IMMINENT DANGER  
TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND  
REQUIRING STAYING SAFE MEASURES

**This Order is made pursuant to Section 2251 of the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL 333.2433 and MCL 333.2453.**

The State of Michigan and Ottawa County are both under states of emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. COVID-19 poses an imminent danger to public health. The Public Health Officer of the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) has made the following determinations and issues this order pursuant to the Michigan Public Health Code, including MCL §333.2235 and §333.2251:

Determinations:

1. The disease caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. There is currently no approved vaccine or antiviral treatment for this disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouth or nose of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet);
2. Control of the COVID-19 epidemic is necessary to protect the public health of the citizens of Ottawa County;
3. As of September 28, 2020, there were 3,483 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in all of Ottawa County;
4. Due to an outbreak of additional COVID 19 cases among GVSU students in the Allendale Campus area ("Outbreak"), the OCPH imposed a Staying in Place Order ("Original Order"), effective between September 17<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>;
5. The OCDPH has determined that the impact of the Outbreak in the Allendale area, in addition to other non-GVSU cases throughout the remainder of Ottawa County, may adversely impact other services in the County including the Ottawa County Court system, i.e., (20<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, 58<sup>th</sup> District Court, Probate Court and Family Court) and the K-12 educational system;
6. OCDPH acknowledges improvement however, there continues to be evidence that gathering indoors at student residences near the Allendale Campus is not consistently compliant with the Governor's Executive Order allowing indoor gatherings of no more than 10 individuals, with face coverings and a sustained distance of 6 feet or more between persons;

7. COVID-19 cases among 18-24-year-old persons, thus far in Ottawa County, have not resulted in increased hospitalization or death rates, however, this population widely interacts with other demographics having a higher risk of severe illness. Interactions between asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic residents and the broader community greatly increases the risk of COVID-19 disease spread which may result in serious illness or death among more vulnerable populations;
8. The OCDPH has been conducting surveillance of COVID-19 cases associated with GVSU. Epidemiological data generally indicate a marked improvement:
  - a) Allendale Township and the main GVSU campus are in the 49401 ZIP Code, which comprises 8.5% of Ottawa County's total population. At the end of the first week of August, 7% of Ottawa County COVID-19 cases were in 49401. By the end of the first week of September – one week after the start of classes at GVSU – 75% of Ottawa County COVID-19 cases were in the 49401 ZIP code, a 970% disproportionate increase in cases. Since the imposition of the Original Order, there has been a marked decrease in 49401 cases and GVSU-affiliated cases, but for the week ending September 26, 2020, 27% of all Ottawa County COVID-19 cases were still from 49401 and were primarily affiliated with GVSU.
  - b) Prior to the Original Order, GVSU daily case rates per million were rising and exceeded maximum thresholds, indicating disease spread among GVSU students and considerable risk to the community. Due to the successful implementation of the Original Order by GVSU students and faculty, the average daily case rates per million have dropped from a high of above 1,700 daily cases per million following the first week of classes to under 500 daily cases per million for the week ending September 26, 2020. While improved, these case rates are still three-fold higher than the >150 daily cases per million thresholds set to indicate maximum risk levels for COVID-19 in Michigan.
  - c) Though there has been a decrease in average daily cases among GVSU students living near- and off-campus, most cases continue to be among these students and appear to be driven by congregate living and congregate gathering without preventive precautions.
  - d) Improvements have been observed in students reporting their close contacts to OCDPH during the Original Order from an average of 1.6 close contacts being reported per case during the week ending September 12, 2020 to an average of 2.9 contacts per case during the week ending September 26, 2020. During this same week, the average contacts per case for Ottawa County reported an overall average of 4.9 contacts by comparison.
  - e) The volume of COVID-19 testing at GVSU decreased following implementation of the Original Order, though GVSU's test volume has consistently exceeded the metric set by Michigan that establishes the level of adequate testing for a community.
  - f) COVID-19 7-day average daily test positivity and case numbers were experiencing a 14-day increasing trend at the time of the Original Order. Currently, the 14-day trend in positivity is stable, neither increasing nor decreasing, while the 14-day trend in cases is statistically decreasing.
9. The Outbreak continues to challenge the ability of the OCDPH to adequately address the COVID-19 pandemic and other critical public health mandates that are in place to protect the health and well-being of Ottawa County residents;

10. The Original Order, along with the efforts of GVSU students and officials, has helped to slow the spread of the Outbreak, which indicates that it should be extended but also somewhat relaxed to maintain containment of the Outbreak and also ease the Campus into a return to regular COVID-19 preventive conditions; and
11. For a point of reference, GVSU-affiliated cases accounted for about 71% of new cases in Ottawa County at the time the original order. This proportion has now gone down to 27% over the last week, a remarkable improvement, but preventive measures are still needed to mitigate the spread of the outbreak.
12. The GVSU Administration has been advised of these determinations and epidemiological findings and has partnered in the decision to take the actions described in the Original Order and in this Order;

**These determinations demonstrate an imminent public health threat to the citizens of Ottawa County therefore, I hereby lift the previous “Stay in place” order and now order that the following preventative actions be taken for students living on the Allendale Campus or near the Allendale Campus, including Georgetown and Allendale Townships:**

1. Beginning October 2, 2020 at 12:00 a.m. and continuing through October 16 at 11:59 p.m., up to four (4) guests may visit indoor living units/residences while maintaining strict preventive measures, including social distancing and wearing of face coverings. An excess of 4 visitors is prohibited, no matter the number of residents in the living unit/residence. GVSU students living in on-campus housing must also abide by the Housing and Residence Life Guest Policy and Community Living Standards
2. For all indoor common areas (e.g. lounges, dining areas, group study areas, etc.) on the Allendale campus, students may not gather in groups greater than four (4) persons. This restriction does not pertain to academic instruction, classrooms or scheduled organized university activities with appropriate social distancing and safety protocols.
3. All **outdoor** registered student organization gatherings approved and supervised by their respective GVSU faculty/staff advisor or organized by GVSU directly will be allowed up to 100 persons, and registered student activities that are student led and supervised and sanctioned by GVSU will be allowed up to 20 people provided they follow strict COVID-19 preventive measures, including social distancing and the wearing of face coverings, except when eating or drinking;
4. All other outdoor gatherings shall not exceed ten (10) persons and even then, all persons must observe strict COVID-19 preventive measures including social distancing and wearing of face coverings, except when eating or drinking;
5. For purposes of this Order, “gathering” includes any party, recreational activity, group study, group socializing, other similar activities, group walking, or other recreational activity; and “GVSU approved” means a student activity that has been directly organized by GVSU administration and/or

is a registered student organization activity for which their respective GVSU faculty/staff advisor has approved the event and assures adherence to this Order;

6. Students are required to respond to inquiries (texts, emails or calls) from the OCDPH and are required to fully disclose information relevant to case investigation and contact tracing. For a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, this required information includes the anonymous disclosure of the name and contact information of their close contacts;
7. Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 (cases) or who are identified as a close contact to a case, are required to adhere to all public health isolation and quarantine restrictions as set forth by the OCDPH. The reduced restrictions listed in this order do not apply to students or staff that are COVID-19 positive or under a public health order to quarantine.
8. All GVSU students are expected to strictly adhere to preventative measures as indicated in the GVSU Student Code of Conduct. This includes maintaining a 6-foot distance between persons and wearing a face covering at all times when outside your living unit/residence and inside your living unit/residence when visitors are present. Face coverings must be worn within common areas of congregate/shared living settings. In-person gatherings with more than 4 non-household members is strictly prohibited for the duration of this order;
9. All GVSU students attending classes at the Allendale Campus will always be required to wear a face covering if in public both on- and off-campus in or near the GVSU Allendale campus. Students may choose not to wear a face covering outdoors when alone but must always be ready to immediately place a face covering over their nose and mouth when encountering one or more individuals.
10. If positivity rates increase or rates of infection among GVSU students continue to be substantially above the rates of other Ottawa County residents, this Order may be extended beyond October 16, 2020 or more restrictive measures may be required; and
11. GVSU policies may be stricter than this order, but cannot be less restrictive than this order. As an example, we are advised that GVSU housing policies prohibit any guests who are not students already living on campus from visiting students in their residence hall rooms. That policy is more restrictive and will continue in effect.

Failure to adhere to this Order may lead to misdemeanor charges, fines or judicial follow up with Ottawa County and according to the GVSU Administration, will be subject to sanctions as outlined by the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution in the Student Code of Conduct.



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Lisa Stefanovsky  
Administrative Health Officer  
Ottawa County Department of Public Health

10.1.2020

Date: