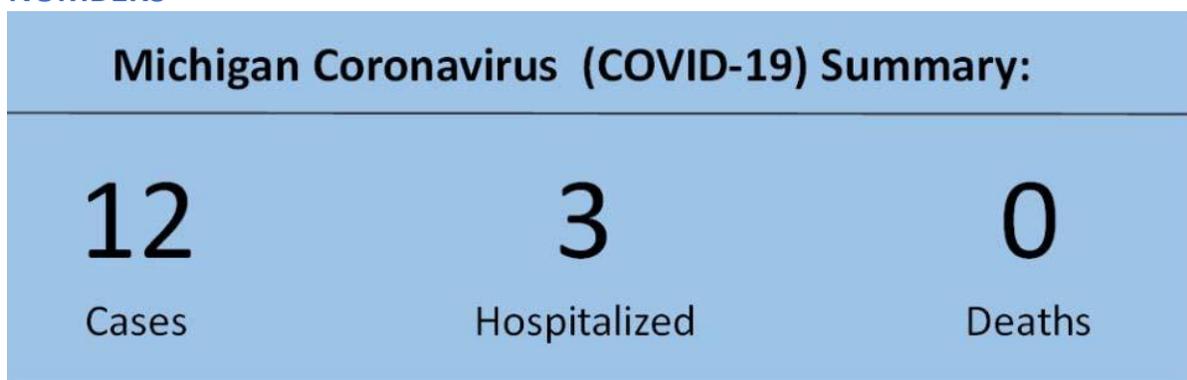


Below is an update on the 2019 Coronavirus outbreak as of 9:45 PM on 3/13/2020



## BY THE NUMBERS



*\*This situation is developing rapidly and the statistics only reflect the information available at 9:45 PM on 3/12/2020*

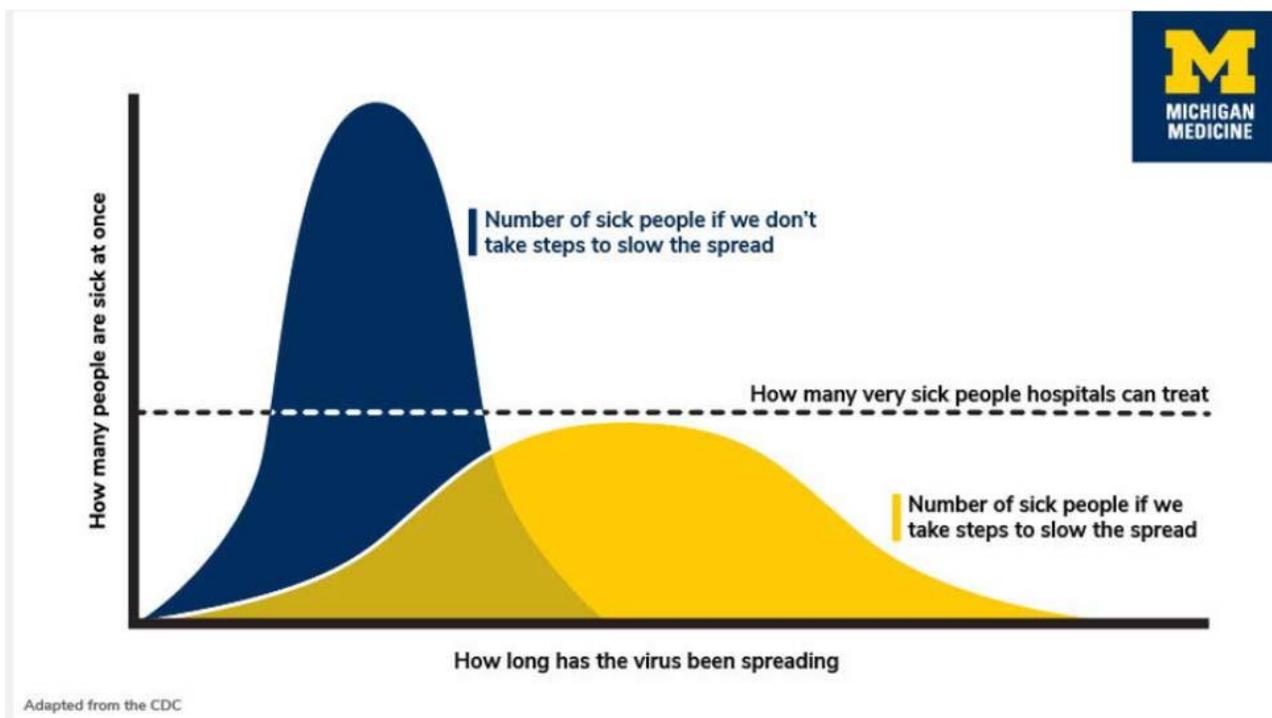
## UPDATE

- Last night, Governor Whitmer announced that in order to slow the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Michigan, she is ordering the closure of all K-12 school buildings, public, private, and boarding, to students starting Monday, March 16 until Sunday, April 5. School buildings are scheduled to reopen on Monday, April 6.
- “This is a necessary step to protect our kids, our families, and our overall public health,” said **Governor Whitmer**. “I am working with partners across state government to ensure educators, parents, and students have the support they need during this time, and to ensure our children who rely on school for meals have access to food. I know this will be a tough time, but we’re doing this to keep the most people we can safe. I urge everyone to make smart choices during this time and to do everything they can to protect themselves and their families.”
- She also announced that her administration will expand access to telemedicine for Michiganders. Medicaid beneficiaries will now be able to receive services in their home while the state combats the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Insurance plans like Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network of Michigan, Priority Health, Meridian, CVS Health, McLaren, and Health Alliance Plan also announced that they will cover and encourage the use of virtual care and telemedicine, as well as waive cost-sharing for COVID-19 testing

- Governor Whitmer and Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) Director Anita Fox also called on the Trump administration to allow for a special enrollment period under the Affordable Care Act ([www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)) to allow more Americans, including Michiganders, to sign up for coverage and help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. You can read their full letter [here](#).

“When we expand access through telemedicine, we can help reduce the number of Michiganders who need to visit their health care provider in person, which will help slow the spread of disease and ensure our health facilities have adequate staff and resources to care for those who are sick,” said Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) **Director Robert Gordon**. “And when we expand coverage through a special enrollment period, we can ensure access to quality, affordable care to more Michiganders. This is about keeping the people of Michigan safe and combatting the spread of COVID-19.”

- The governor and her administration has announced these actions and recommendations in an effort to “[Flatten the Curve](#)” of COVID-19. The University of Michigan shared information on this concept to slow the spread of COVID-19 to as to prevent overwhelming hospitals with more patients than they can treat.



- Additionally, to mitigate the spread on college campuses, Michigan State University, Western Michigan University, University of Michigan, Central Michigan University, and Michigan Tech University have all begun tele-learning for classes.
- On Wednesday, the [governor recommended](#) efforts to help mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. Michiganders are encouraged to follow these recommendations as well as the actions below:
  - wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer;
  - avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
  - cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
  - avoid handshakes;
  - avoid contact with sick people who are sick; and

- stay home when you are sick.

## RESOURCES

- [CDC Situation Updates](#)
- [Michigan Updates](#)
- [Map of country-specific travel health information](#)
- [About COVID-19](#)

## MEDIA COVERAGE

- Bridge: [Michigan's top doc: No signs yet of 'community spread' of coronavirus](#)
- M-Live: [CDC warns those over 60: 'stock up' and stay home as coronavirus spreads](#)
- Detroit Free Press: [What's been canceled, postponed so far in metro Detroit due to coronavirus](#)
- The Detroit News: [Whitmer urges people to cancel, postpone large gatherings](#)
- Crain's Detroit: [Coronavirus hits sports hard](#)
- WILX: [MI Senate allocates \\$25 million in state spending to combat coronavirus](#)
- Michigan Radio: [Gov. Whitmer asks businesses to step up during coronavirus crisis, says state will do the same](#)