

Frequently Asked Questions

Public Health Emergency Stay in Place Order
for University of Michigan Students
October 20, 2020. Updated October 23, 2020.



What is an emergency order?

Under the Michigan Public Health Code, local health departments have the power to issue orders that are necessary to control an epidemic. These orders have the power of law, and violating these orders is a misdemeanor – but the goal is to have compliance with the orders, not to charge people with crimes.

What does the Washtenaw Stay in Place Emergency Order say?

University of Michigan undergraduate students need to “stay in place” and remain in their current residence.

Students who don’t have any COVID-19 symptoms can leave their residence for the reasons below. They must wear face coverings when out and maintain at least 6 feet of from others. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should quarantine and only go out for COVID-19 testing or medical care.

- To go to classes and instructional labs
- To go to off-site clinical rotations or experiential learning assignments – with approval from the college dean and the organization/site of activity
- To go to work if it cannot be done remotely – with approval from the employer
- To pick up food and return home to eat it
- To get medications or attend medical appointments
- To attend religious practice activities
- To vote
- To get tested for COVID-19
- To exercise/be physically active outside – in groups of no more than 2 people
- To participate in intercollegiate varsity sports

There should be no in-person gathering with people who are not in your household. There should be no visitors allowed in on- or off-campus housing.

It is recommended that all students remain at their current address. Students who live in U-M housing may only return to their home/permanent address if they follow U-M testing and checkout procedures. If other students return to their permanent address, it is strongly recommended they undergo COVID-19 testing prior to leaving their current residence and stay in place for the duration of this order.

Why was the emergency order put in place?

The number of COVID-19 cases amongst the U-M community has increased over the last few weeks and is still increasing now. The emergency order is an intervention to try and slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 associated with the U-M community and prevent additional impact to the broader community.

What types of students have to follow this emergency order?

This emergency order applies to U-M undergraduate students.

How will this emergency order be enforced?

The University of Michigan has established a non-emergency hotline to address issues in off-campus housing areas. **Call 734-647-3000.**

As with other state and local orders, violations can be reported to local law enforcement. Responses may vary according to the urgency of any given situation and the availability of law enforcement. First steps will always include education and engagement rather than penalties.

Violations are subject to citations and penalties as outlined in the Michigan Public Health Code. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners has [passed a resolution](#) detailing the schedule of monetary penalties for violations of local orders. **Violations are subject to a \$500 civil monetary penalty for each violation or day that a violation occurs.**

Health Department staff are also available to answer non-urgent questions or to provide guidance. Leave a message at 734-544-6700 or email L-wchdcontact@washtenaw.org.

If there is a local emergency order, do we still have to social distance and wear masks/face coverings?

Yes. It is very important that everyone continues to socially distance (being at least 6 feet apart from other people) and wear cloth face coverings at all times whenever you are outside your residence or when you are encountering others in congregate living settings (apartments with more than 4 residents, common areas in dorms, Greek housing, etc.). The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has issued state-wide [Epidemic Orders](#) to mandate these COVID-19 precautions. Washtenaw County also has an active [local order](#) further restricting gatherings in the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

Can I go to class?

Yes.

Can I go on campus to study, print materials for class, or participate in virtual classes?

Yes, students can go on campus to access essential technology at U-M designated study areas that provide for single person study spaces. These include activities such as studying, printing, or participating in virtual classes. Strict adherence to preventive measures is required.

What is not allowed is group study (this should be done virtually) or going to study at places such as coffee shops, restaurants, or other establishments where multiple students/people may gather, even if they are on campus or in U-M buildings.

Can I go to work on campus?

Yes, if your work cannot be done remotely, and with the permission of your employer.

Can I go to work off campus?

Yes, if your work cannot be done remotely, and with the permission of your employer.

Can I go to the Center Campus Recreation Building/North Campus Research Complex/etc. to work out?

No. While physical activity is encouraged, the order only allows for physical activity outside to reduce the risk of exposure. No more than 2 people should gather for physical activity.

Can I play a pick-up basketball game with my friends?

No. Physical activity needs to be done in a group of no more than 2 people.

Can we tailgate for football or have a party to watch the game together?

No. COVID-19 tends to spread when people get together for group activities. To stop the spread of COVID-19 within the U-M community, it is important to avoid all social gatherings for now.

Does this order affect the quarantine at Mary Markley?

No. The residents at Mary Markley need to continue to perform enhanced social distancing including not attending in-person class for 14 days. After the period of enhanced social distancing is completed, the residents at Markley will then follow the local stay in place order.

Can I leave campus to go home?

It is recommended that all students remain at their current address. Students who live in U-M housing may only return to their home/permanent address if they follow U-M testing and checkout procedures. If other students return to their permanent address, it is strongly recommended they undergo COVID-19 testing prior to leaving their current residence and stay in place for the duration of this order. It is very important that students do this to prevent bringing COVID-19 back to their home or other areas.

Can I still vote or attend to election-related activities?

Yes. U-M students can leave their residence to vote, register to vote, work as poll workers/watchers, or participate/volunteer in any planned campaign or election events. Strict adherence to preventive measures is required.

What happens if the number of cases still goes up during the Stay in Place order?

If the number of cases continues to go up, then the stay in place order may be extended or further measures may be required to stop the spread of COVID-19.

How can I get a COVID-19 test?

If you are sick, you can get a COVID-19 test through [UHS](#). It is important to get tested at UHS so that we can ensure that U-M and the Washtenaw County Health Department are getting any positive results so they can start investigating cases and contacts.

If you want to help monitor how much COVID-19 is on campus, you can also volunteer to be part of the COVID-19 [Community Sampling and Tracking program](#).

Do I have to talk to the case investigators or contact tracers?

If you get called by a case investigator or contact tracer, it is very important that you speak with them and answer their questions to the best of your ability. Case investigations and contact tracing are some of the best tools that we have to try and stop the spread of COVID-19 (along with social distancing, face coverings and frequent hand cleaning). Everything that you tell health officials is confidential and is only used to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Information current as of Oct 23, 2020