



## Internal Memo

August 27, 2020

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark C. Meyers, City Administrator *MCM*

SUBJECT: General Information Packet

Attached are general items of information you may find interesting. If you have any questions or comments regarding the information, please contact me.

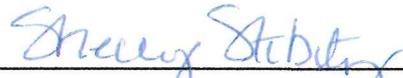
MCM/th  
Attachments



NOTICE  
MEETING CANCELLATION

PLANNING COMMISSION

The September 8, 2020 Planning Commission meeting has been *cancelled* due to lack of business.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelly Stibitz, City Clerk

Posted: 08.25.20



**Administration Offices**

Bill O'Brien ♦ Superintendent

121 Randall Road ♦ Norton Shores, MI ♦ 49441

Telephone: (231) 780-4751 ♦ Fax: (231) 780-2099 ♦ [www.monashores.net](http://www.monashores.net)

August 24, 2020

Dear Mrs. Stibitz-

Thank you for your follow-through regarding the timeline for moving polling locations. I am very happy to hear that it is a possibility and I am working to balance that with your request to not move the polling locations for the upcoming November election. I certainly value our partnership and want to do what is right for our community. The balancing act comes down to two important pieces, safety and health. Given the importance of these two things for our kids I would like to formally request that the polling locations be moved from Mona Shores High School and Mona Shores Middle School for the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election and beyond.

The safety of our students is the number one driver of my formal request for a move. We have worked for years to create single-point entry at our buildings, increase security measures, and train our staff and students. It is contrary to all of these safety protocols to then open our doors to the public for Election Day. This year in particular has the potential to include a level of volatility that increases our concern for student safety.

COVID-19 is the second factor in my formal request for moving the polling locations. We currently have a mitigation plan approved by Public Health-Muskegon County. This plan states "no visitors will be permitted in our buildings". It would be counter-intuitive for us to then allow this for Election Day. This mitigation measure was put in place to ensure our staff and students possible exposure to COVID-19 is as limited as possible. We are limiting movement during the day, creating small cohorts of kids, and completely changing our school schedules in order to mitigate.

Please know that I understand the significance of this move. I am sorry for the work, communication, and confusion that may come from this move. Mona Shores Public Schools will work with you to help get the message out. In addition we are willing to assist in finding alternative polling locations if that would be helpful. There is little doubt that this will add to your workload during an already unprecedented time. For this, I am sincerely sorry. Please know it comes from wanting to stay true to my ultimate duty as Superintendent of Schools, which is to ensure the safety of the nearly 4,000 students that we are entrusted with every day.

With appreciation,

Bill O'Brien  
Superintendent  
Mona Shores Schools

**Mark Meyers**

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**From:** Jake German <jake@dunaskiss.biz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 7:30 AM  
**To:** Mark Meyers  
**Subject:** Late August Newsletter



Late-Au  
Newsl



#### **BUDGET SHORTFALL IMPROVES IN WAKE OF REVENUE**

##### **ESTIMATING CONFERENCE:**

As MIRS reported, the cavernous \$3.1 billion budget hole state officials thought they'd need to fill for the upcoming Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget is down to next to nothing, comparatively -- a combined \$12.4 million, based on a Senate Fiscal Agency report issued yesterday.

Roughly \$43.3 billion in federal COVID-19 assistance -- the Paycheck Protection Program, the \$600-a-week unemployment boost, and other federal aid -- boosted the state's economy, which trickled into the state income tax and sales tax dollars collections.

As a result, the \$3.2 billion in lost revenue state economists projected in May for the current fiscal year ending Sept. 30 is turning out to look more like a \$926 million loss.

With the Washington, D.C. money appearing to dry up, though, the amount of lost revenue for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1 is now being forecasted at \$2.4 billion as opposed to \$3.1 billion.

Once leftover money from the current FY '20 is carried forward, the hole that state legislators and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer now has to contend with is \$384.6 million in the General Fund. The School Aid Fund is reporting a \$372.2 million balance, putting the size of the hole at a negligible \$12.4 million.

However, the balance sheet doesn't include the \$600 million Flint Water Crisis payout since the details haven't been finalized, but is something to note, said Senate Fiscal Agency Director Chris Harkins.

Also, concerns of a COVID-19 second wave, closed businesses, and hundreds of thousands of people out of work still have decisionmakers nervous.



"By no means are we out of the woods. Michigan's economy has not recovered," said House Appropriations Committee Chair Shane Hernandez (R-Port Huron), adding that Michigan's economy needs to "fully reopen" and "conservative budget decisions" need to be made to avoid bigger problems.

FY '22, which is more than a year away, is projected to be down around \$1 billion, according to SFA estimates. The size of the hole may be down, but state revenues are still bleak, said Budget Director Chris Kolb.

"We are still looking at a dramatic revenue loss in the fiscal years of 2021 and 2022 that totals \$4.2 billion," Kolb said. "We still need additional federal aid to help us manage through the devastating impact that COVID-19 has had on our revenues."

State economists in May were planning for the worst when they projected a two-year, \$6.3 billion loss of revenue over the FY '20 and '21. At its worst, one in four Michigan jobs had been lost due to the economic restrictions put in place by the Governor to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

But four things happened since those May numbers came out, according to Eric Bussis, director of the Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis.

- Income tax payments that had been delayed from April 15 to July 15 came back \$200 million better than previously expected.
- Automotive production recovered faster than expected.
- The impact of the federal CARES Act on revenue was underestimated.
- Spending on taxable goods is higher than expected.

Harkins said that while the state's economy is seeing improvements, it's not clear future federal money is coming. General Fund revenues that had been forecasted at \$11.2 billion in January went down to \$9.5 billion.

"Although the revenue numbers are better than they were in May, we are still facing a structural budget deficit," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Jim STAMAS (R-Midland). "Our General Fund remains \$1.7 billion below what we expected back in January."

Kolb also noted that COVID-19 hasn't gone away. A second wave later this year could create another "major loss in revenue."

"Until COVID-19 is defeated, uncertainty is the word when it comes to revenues and their impact on our budget," Kolb said.

[Click here for more on the budget »](#)

### **WHITMER SIGNS EDUCATION, CORONAVIRUS BILLS**



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced last Thursday she has signed a series of bills aimed at addressing the significant concerns of educators and parents as students prepare to start a school year ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic.

The move comes after legislative leaders worked with Whitmer on a compromise, arguing the bills give districts funding clarity and guidance on how to educate students in person or online this year.

"I am proud of this bipartisan package and will continue working with everyone who wants to ensure our schools are safe during COVID-19," Whitmer said in a news release.

Key components of the legislation include the following:

- No mandates for in-person classes. Districts will need to coordinate any plans that involve physically attending school with local health officials, monitoring local coronavirus trends.
- Funding will still be based on attendance, with added weight given to attendance figures from last year. About 75% of funding would be based on a district's student count from last school year, with the remaining 25% based on the count this year.
- The legislation defines attendance so that students who are physically in class and those who participate virtually are both counted. The plan also would waive the requirement to have 180 days or 1,098 hours of school this year. Some school leaders were nervous that students attending virtually would not count toward the funding formula.
- Teachers would be required to regularly "interface" with students. The legislation calls for at least two, two-way interactions per week, according to a summary of the measures. That means teachers would need to check in regularly with students, or else the state may withhold funding.
- A student assessment would be required within nine weeks of the start of school, with a second delivered by the end of the year, in order for districts to receive funding.
- School boards would have to publicly reevaluate their plans every month. This is intended to provide accountability and offer more of a voice to parents in deciding whether districts need to change course throughout the year.
- Districts would need to establish "education goals" for students by Sept. 15, and publish "extended COVID-19 learning plans" by Oct. 1.
- An additional \$583 million would be allocated to help schools and educators during a tumultuous year. The funding, included in the original House proposal, is intended to help districts provide online learning and adequate student assessments. More than \$50 million is intended as hazard pay for teachers.

[More on this can be read here »](#)



**CLIENT SPOTLIGHT: SPECTRUM HUMAN SERVICES**

Dignity and respect are simple human gifts. We believe they belong to everyone.

Since 1976, we've worked to strengthen children, families and communities across the state of Michigan. Our assistance directly addresses the challenges SHS users face, including:

- Assessment and diagnostic services
- Family preservation
- Foster care and adoption

# The Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy >> University of Michigan

Michigan Public  
Policy Survey August 2020

## Confidence in the accuracy of Michigan's 2020 Census count among local leaders was not very high, slips further

By Debra Horner, Natalie Fitzpatrick, and Thomas Ivacko

This report presents the opinions of Michigan's local government leaders regarding the 2020 U.S. Census, including their confidence in the potential accuracy of the count both locally and at the state level, as well as information about local actions to boost census participation among residents. These findings are based on statewide surveys of local government leaders in the Spring 2020 wave of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS), with a comparison to the Spring 2019 and Spring 2010 waves of the MPPS.

>> The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) is a census survey of all 1,856 general purpose local governments in Michigan conducted by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the University of Michigan in partnership with the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association, and Michigan Association of Counties. The MPPS investigates local officials' opinions and perspectives on a variety of important public policy issues. Respondents for the Spring 2020 wave of the MPPS include county administrators, board chairs, and clerks; city mayors, managers, and clerks; village presidents, managers, and clerks; and township supervisors, managers, and clerks from 1,342 jurisdictions across the state.

For more information, please contact: [closup-mpps@umich.edu](mailto:closup-mpps@umich.edu) / (734) 647-4091. You can also follow us on Twitter @closup

## Key Findings

- Ideally, confidence in the accuracy of the 2020 U.S. Census count should be very high. However, as of spring 2020, only 5% of Michigan's local government leaders are very confident that the 2020 Census statewide count will be accurate, unchanged from when they were asked in 2019, while the percentage who are somewhat confident has declined from 56% to 51%. Meanwhile, the percentage who are not very confident or not at all confident has increased from 30% last year to 34% today.
- Local leaders' confidence in the accuracy of their own local community count is somewhat higher, but also down compared to expectations when asked in 2019. Overall, 15% are very confident (unchanged from last year) while 58% are somewhat confident, down from 64% when asked a year ago. Meanwhile, one in five (20%) are either not very confident (15%) or not confident at all (5%) in the accuracy of 2020 Census counts in their own jurisdictions, up from 14% last year.
  - » In 2020, officials from rural jurisdictions are less likely to be very confident in the Census count in their jurisdictions (only 13%) compared to more suburban (22%) or urban (20%) officials. However, confidence has declined the most among urban local leaders compared with last year (a net change of 34 percentage-points). Confidence also continues to be lower and shows greater declines in jurisdictions with larger minority populations compared with less racially-diverse communities.
- In April and May 2020, more than two-thirds (68%) of Michigan local governments reported taking actions to encourage their residents to complete their Census forms. This is up from 53% who responded similarly during the 2010 Census, and up sharply from 35% who reported planning such actions for this year, when asked in 2019.
  - » By far the most common action (59% of jurisdictions statewide) reported is a new option available for the 2020 Census and one particularly suited to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic: encouraging residents to complete the Census online. The next most common actions include direct communications to residents (25%) and collaboration with other organizations (17%) to boost residents' participation.

# CLOSUP

Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

 Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy



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## V. PRESIDENT REPORT



### PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT

July 2020

#### 1. The Economy and Recovery –

- Job recovery: 13,947 back to work from April to June after 19,026 loss February to April; unemployment rate recovery: 17.6% in June after 3.9% in March and 29.3% in April.
- COVID-19 Dashboard updated every 2 weeks.
- MSBRP2 – New Restart Grant Program: Muskegon allocation is \$1,191,104 including \$59,555 for administration and \$339,465 set aside for minority, women, and veterans. Committee members were Morgan Carroll, Tom Zant, Cindy Larsen, Eric Siefert, Karen Benson, Dave Alexander, Jim Edmonson, Tamara Jackson-Gatewood, and Dave Ramos.
- We received \$33,500 in grant funds for FARM equipment from the USDA.

#### 2. Business Retention, Expansion, Attraction –

- Project wins to date: 10 projects; 154 new jobs; \$65.7 million in new investment, no change from June's report
- 88 business retention calls from October 1, 2019 through July.
- Projects-in-the-Pipeline – We are working on or monitoring 31 projects an increase of 6 from June. These projects have the potential to create over 1,001 new jobs and \$325.8 million in new investment.
- Active Projects: 6 projects with the potential to create 622 jobs and \$132.2 million in new investment.
- Year to date Muskegon County business PTAC contract awards: \$232.6 million.

#### 3. Community Capacity Building –

- Since April, submitted 9 grant applications on behalf of MAF, WMFPA, Norton Shores, and Muskegon Heights that total \$872,150.
- Sites visits to cities and townships postponed.
- Engaged a consultant (SmithGroup, Ann Arbor) for the Muskegon Heights Visioning Process.

#### 4. Strategic Infrastructure Projects –

- Construction of The FARM incubator, education, and R&D facility has begun. Project sign-up with MAF displayed. Pre-cast walls and steel arrive this week or next.
- Progress continues with Brightmark Energy and their wastewater system expansion in eastern Muskegon County. Engineering and administrative phase.
- Waiting on grant approval from MEDC to continue efforts to create the Muskegon Heights Industrial Park.

#### 5. Marketing –

- New website layout and content has begun and should be ready for launch next month.
- We received 2 more food processing prospect appointments from ROI.
- MAF continues its partnership with Lakeshore Advantage on business intelligence research, although work has been altered due to COVID-19. Report delayed to December.

#### 6. Organizational Planning –

- Strategic plan completed.
- Annual Meeting in August

# COVID-19 Economic Indicator Dashboard

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MUSKEGON COUNTY

AUGUST 14, 2020



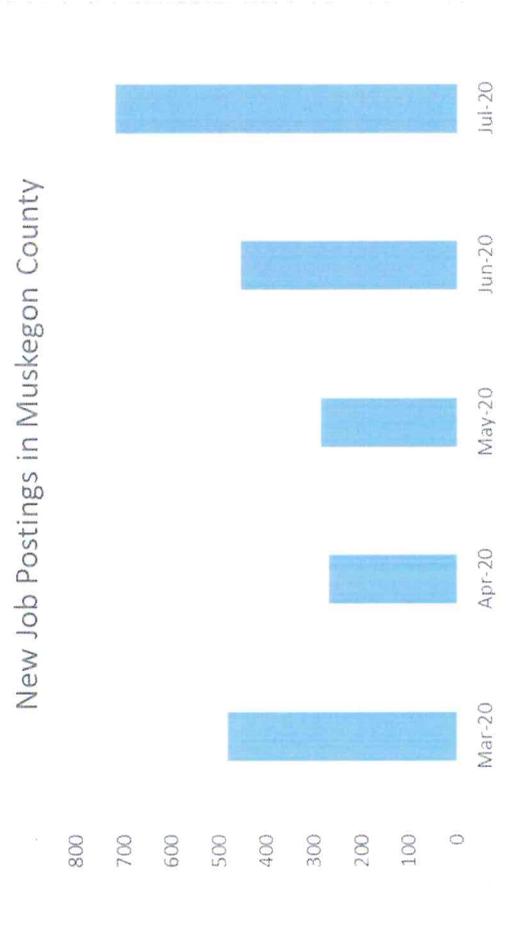
Muskegon Area First

*Driving Economic Growth Along the  
Lakeshore*



# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

Muskegon County's Unemployment Rate decreased by 11.5% from April 2020-June 2020. Job Postings increased by 32.9% from March 2020 to July 2020. In June there was a 12.8% or 1,400 increase in manufacturing jobs.



Source: Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget

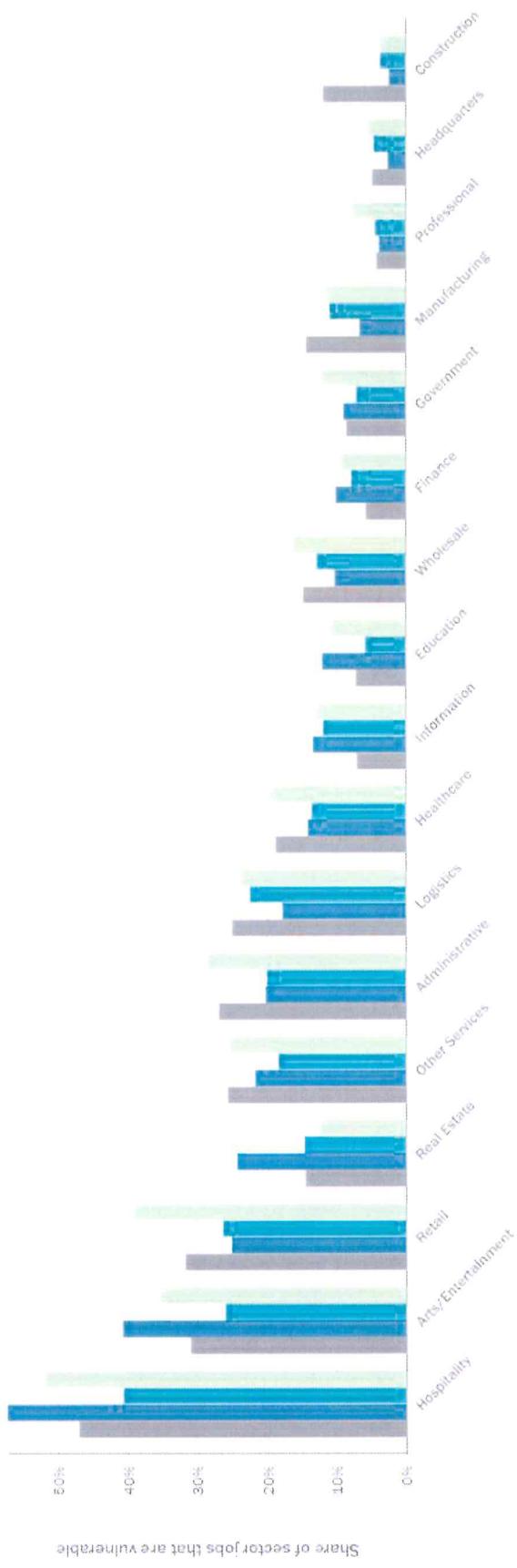
Source: West Michigan Works



# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

18.2% of Muskegon jobs are vulnerable to permanent layoffs which ranks 232 most vulnerable community out of 380 MSAs. The national average is 19%.

● National ● Muskegon, MI ● Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI ● Niles-Benton Harbor, MI

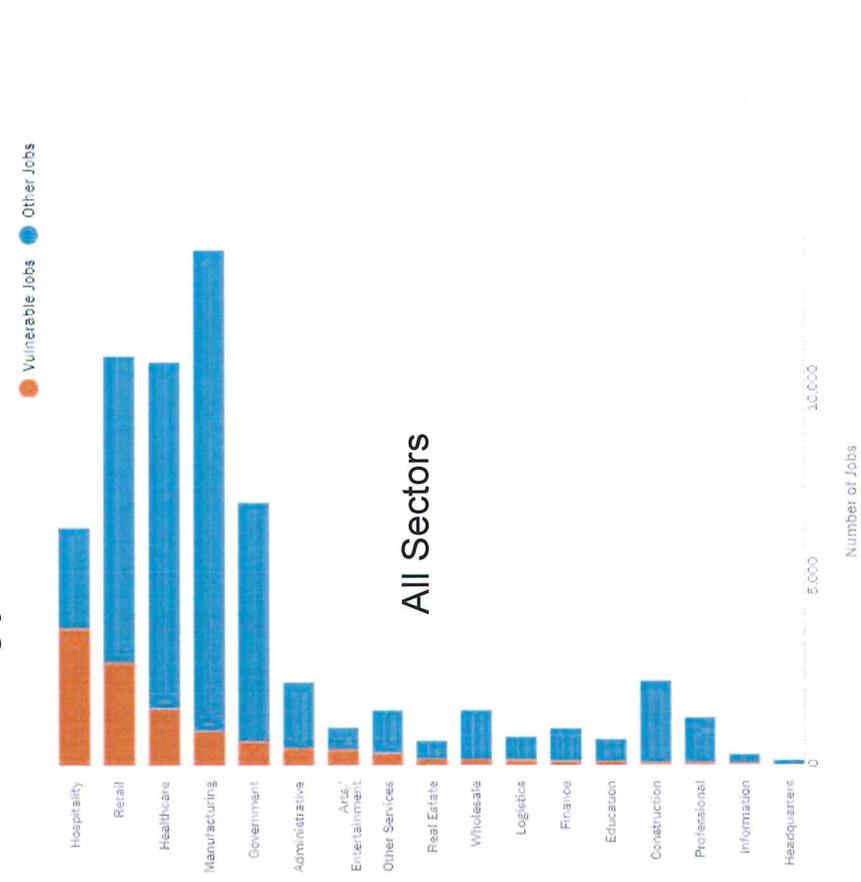
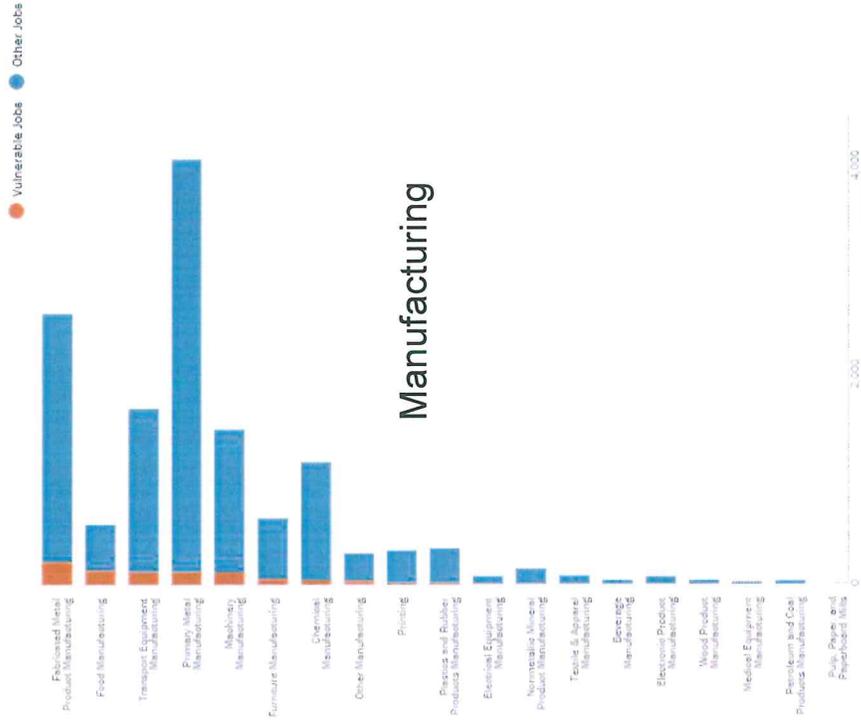


Source: Brookings



# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

## Muskegon's most vulnerable sectors to disruptions in employment. Breakout of manufacturing jobs.



Source: Brookings

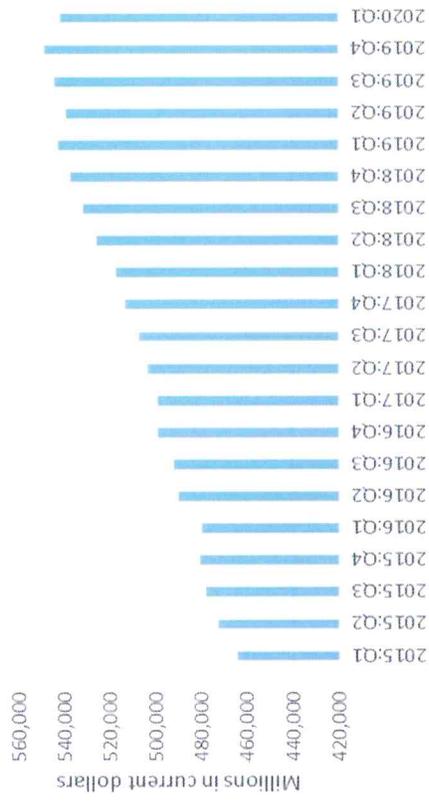


# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

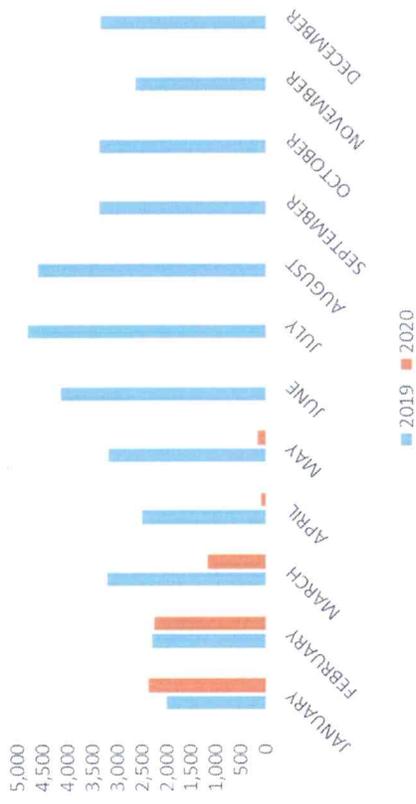
Michigan GDP decreased by 1.3% from Q4 of 2019-Q1 2020. U.S. GDP fell 9.5% in second quarter 2020.

Muskegon County air passenger travel decreased by 94.7% from May 2019-May 2020.

Michigan GDP (All industry total)



Muskegon County Airport Passenger Travel

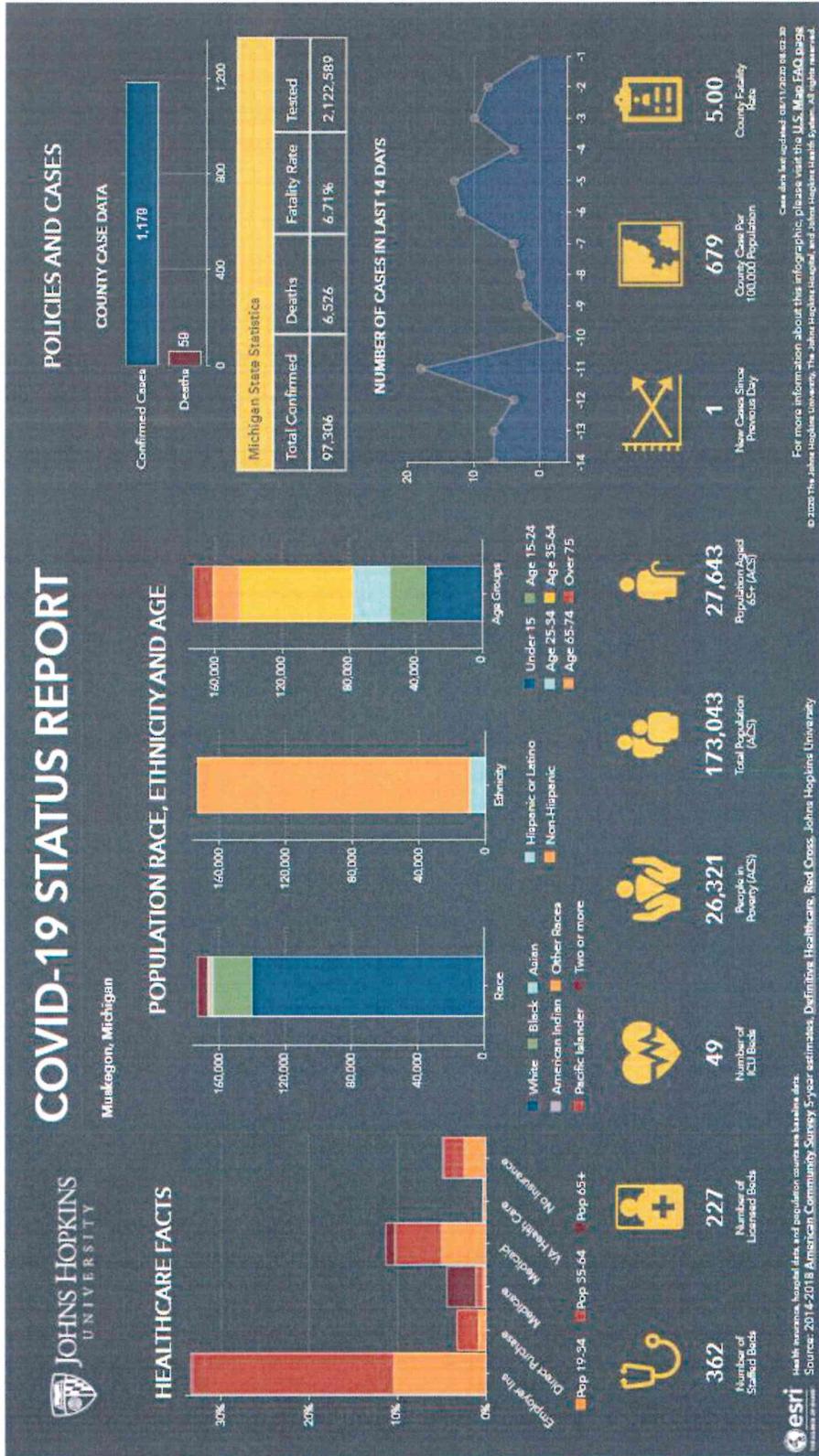


Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Source: Muskegon County



# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard



# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

Michigan COVID Overview. Percent testing positive this week 2.4%, down from 4.95%

Confirmed Cases	Deaths	Total Tested	Testing Positivity
97,306	6,526	2,122,589	4.58%

## TESTING OVERVIEW

### New Daily Cases



### Daily Tests



### Daily % Positive



Source: John Hopkins University & Medicine August 11, 2020



Muskegon Area First

# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

Boeing's aircraft production has decreased by 81.8% and Airbus' aircraft production has decreased by 67.4% between Q2 2019-Q2 2020.



Source: The Wall Street Journal



Source: US Census

Muskegon Area First

# Muskegon County COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

With loosening of restrictions our activities are changing.

On July 25<sup>th</sup> we spent more time at work and less time in retail compared to July 12<sup>th</sup>.

## July 25, 2020

County	Retail & Recreation	Grocery & Pharmacy	Parks	Transit Stations	Workplace	Residential
Muskegon	-3%	19%	103%	-	-5%	-2%
State	-12%	5%	388%	3%	-7%	0%

## July 12, 2020

County	Retail & Recreation	Grocery & Pharmacy	Parks	Transit Stations	Workplace	Residential
Muskegon	10%	18%	103%	-	-9%	-2%
State	-2%	5%	363%	0%	-8%	-1%

Source: Google Mobility Change Report, July 12, 2020 and July 25, 2020



Muskegon Area First

## Anthony Chandler

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**From:** Lukens, Robert <Bob@visitmuskegon.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 6:17 PM  
**To:** Barnhill, Kristin; 'Cindy Larsen (clarsen@muskegon.org)'; 'Robert Gustafson'; Eisenbarth, Mark; Anthony Chandler; 'Richard D. Houtteman'; Bierman, Rita; Scolnik, Robert; Mahoney, Kenneth; Wilkins, Rillastine; Terry Boer (tboer@visionaircenter.com)  
**Subject:** Muskegon County Airport Development Meeting - UPDATE

Good Afternoon Airport Development Committee:

Not much has changed at the Muskegon County Airport since our last meeting, so at this time a meeting is not required and we will cancel tomorrow's August 25 Airport Development Committee meeting. This e-mail will serve as a update to the committee.

- The airport is continuing service during the pandemic, two (2) RT flights per day to Chicago O'Hare (ORD). Load factors are low, but we are seeing increases in private pilot usage, corporate flights, and charters. The two flights/day schedule continues into October.
- We have a casino charter to Atlantic City September 5 – 9, 2020.
- The airport parking lot project is underway and should be complete by September.
- The annual Airport Emergency Plan (AEP) Review was completed August 20, and led by Norton Shores Deputy Fire Chief Joe Kinnucan. We had a good discussion and review of the plan, and are currently making updates in advance of our annual inspection. The annual Wildlife Hazard Management Plan review and training for maintenance staff will be conducted on September 1, 2020.
- The Airport has been uploading documents to the FAA for the last month for the annual inspection. The in-person review is set for September or October; date has not yet been confirmed.
- I am currently preparing and conducting Airport Maintenance staff annual evaluations.

Additional updates will be distributed as they become available. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call or e-mail.

Thank you,  
Bob Lukens

Aug. 17, 2020

From: Frank Michels  
1820 Spencer Dr.  
Norton Shores, MI 49441

To: Norton Shores Mayor Gary Neland, city council

As a citizen of Norton Shores I'm concerned about the level of civil dialog currently underway between some Norton Shores city officials and the Mona Shores School Board in a controversy over a school board member's two-year old misdemeanor charge and objection to a single paragraph in the board's recently adopted Black Lives Matter resolution.

"To be civil, in ordinary understanding, means to be polite, respectful, decent, tolerant, graceful in language and gesture, tone, exercising restraint toward others, cooling the hot passions of partisanship, adversarial and personalized argument, with magnanimity toward others." (Ethics Handbook for Michigan Municipalities published by the Michigan Municipal League; Section 1, pg. 10, Civility in Local Government: The Civil Society).

"Personal attacks generate counter attacks and lead to verbal duels and free-for-alls difficult to break, leaving civility and decorum in the dust. The presiding officer in that event may have no choice except to declare a brief recess so tempers and rhetoric may cool.

A rule against personal attacks, applicable equally to members of the body and the public, can help keep a discussion "problem centered" and not "person centered." (Ethics Handbook for Michigan Municipalities published by the Michigan Municipal League; Section 1, pg. 12, Civility in Local Government: The Civil Society).

I cite the Michigan Municipal League's Ethics Handbook for Michigan Municipalities because I am curious whether the city council subscribes to these ethical imperatives? Is it respectful, civil and OK for a council member to appear at a school board meeting and attempt to make public allegations of a criminal nature and complaint about an elected board member based on a two-year-old misdemeanor offense that occurred when the board member was a teenager, and which case has been closed?

The board president advised the council member to submit the complaint in writing to the board so it could be considered at an appropriate time. Certainly as elected public officials you know that the first item in the section covering closed sessions is a provision in the Open Meetings Act that protects public employees/board members from having allegations thrown at them at public meetings.

Specifically, it states: **"CLOSED SESSIONS**

Meeting in closed session – a public body may meet in a closed session only for one or more of The limited purposes for which

***(1) To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named person requests a closed sessions ..."***

The councilman then claimed in social media posts, among other things, his right to speak under the Open Meetings Act had been "intentionally" and "blatantly violated" and he called on people to attend the next school board meeting to give the board their opinions. Many did appear and 25 expressed support for the School Board's Black Lives Matter resolution and the school board member while only about 15 expressed opposition to the resolution and called for the board member's resignation.

The actions of all public bodies are presumed to be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act unless a judge rules there has been violation.

Certainly everyone has a right to argue for their positions but I think most people would agree that it should be done in a way that is respectful to other elected officials and in accordance with their meeting rules and the Michigan Open Meetings Act. I believe public officials should be held to a higher standard.

Thank you.

**PUBLIC e-mail NOTICE**

**CITY OF NORTON SHORES**  
Department of Public Works  
4814 Henry Street  
Norton Shores, Michigan 49441  
Telephone: 231-799-6803  
e-mail: [jmurphy@nortonshores.org](mailto:jmurphy@nortonshores.org)

**DATE:** August 21, 2020

**PAGES:** 1, Including this Sheet

**FROM:** Jim Murphy, City Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Harvey Street – Judson Road Sanitary Sewer Project

**COMMENTS:** The City's Contractor will be placing sanitary sewer mains at the following locations:

- Harvey Street, Judson Road to Wilson Road
- Judson Road, US-31 to Harvey Street
- Judson Road, Cul-de-Sac west of US-31

The Sanitary Sewer portion of this work is scheduled to begin on August 31, 2020. Traffic through the work zone will be limited to local property owners due to full street closures. Currently, the work is scheduled to be completed by early to mid-November 2020.

Updates to project progress can be found on the City's website and Facebook page as well as available on [nixle.com](http://nixle.com).

Questions about the closures may be addressed to the Public Works Department, Municipal Building, 4814 Henry Street, Norton Shores, MI 49441 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 231-799-6803.

## NOTICE

### LEAF DISPOSAL SITES SCHEDULE

THE CITY OF NORTON SHORES leaf disposal sites will be open daily to City residents beginning Saturday, September 26, 2020, and extending through Sunday, December 6, 2020, at the following locations:

1. Martin Road at Randall Road, east side of Ross Park.
2. Wood Road south of Pontaluna Road.

Both sites will be open daily from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

We will accept bagged leaves only at the Ross Park site. We will accept bagged and loose leaves as well as small brush (less than 3 inches in diameter) at the Wood Road site. Bagged leaves must be placed in paper bags. Plastic bags will not be accepted. Trash and garbage can be taken to the Muskegon County Solid Waste Facility on Apple Avenue.

Users of the Wood Road and Martin Road (Ross Park) yard waste sites are reminded they are required to tarp and/or secure all loads. This requirement includes pick-ups and trailers.

JRM/sr

8/21/2020