



COVID-19 OUTBREAK

COVID-19 BRIEFING - 247.1

MARCH 08, 2021

For Operational Period: March 01-07, 2021

WORLDWIDE

117,513,772 Cases

2,606,808 Deaths

UNITED STATES

29,696,250 Cases

537,838 Deaths

MICHIGAN

656,072 Cases

16,658 Deaths

OUT-WAYNE COUNTY

65,958 Cases

2,104 Deaths

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- Pharmaceutical giant Merck will help manufacture Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine, White House press secretary Jen Psaki announced, calling it "an unprecedented historic step," considering that the two companies are normally competitors. Merck will produce the drug substance at the heart of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine as well as work on filling vaccine vials and getting them ready for distribution.—**NPR**
- The European Commission and Italy have blocked a shipment of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine destined for Australia after the pharmaceutical company did not fulfil its European Union contract commitments. AstraZeneca had reportedly requested authorization from the Italian government to export some 250,000 doses from its Anagni plant, close to Rome. Italy reportedly refused and the European Commission backed its decision. The decision marks the first time that the EU used its COVID-19 vaccine export ban.—**DW News**
- Governor Whitmer and MDHHS officials announced the expansion of the COVID 19 vaccination prioritization. Effective March 8th, the prioritization will include those age 50 and older living with disabilities or with medical conditions that place an individual at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19. It will also include caregiver family members age 16 and older and guardians who care for children with special health care needs. Beginning March 22nd, vaccine eligibility will again expand to include all Michiganders 50 and older.—**Michigan.gov**
- MDHHS updated two of its epidemic orders, allowing for increased capacity limits at various venues, larger residential and nonresidential gatherings and expanded visitation opportunities at residential care facilities. Changes are designed to balance reopening while controlling the spread of COVID-19 and save Michiganders' lives. Although progress has been made in reduction of hospitalizations, it is crucial that Michiganders continue to mask up and socially distance as we reopen.—**Michigan.gov**

ACTIONS TAKEN

- The Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHOC) is at FULL ACTIVATION.

USEFUL RESOURCES

[MI COVID Alert](#)

[Find a Testing Site Near You](#)

[Return to School Roadmap](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Wayne County](#)

[Michigan.gov/coronavirus](#)

[Small Business Best Practices](#)

[MDHHS Epidemic Orders](#)

[COVID-19 Educational Materials](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)

Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 and TTY 1-800-787-3224

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Prepared by: Wayne County Emergency Preparedness

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