

MAY 22, 2020

# GOVERNOR WHITMER REOPENS AUTO DEALERSHIPS AND RETAIL BUSINESSES BY APPOINTMENT, AUTHORIZES NONESSENTIAL MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VETERINARY PROCEDURES

*Official newsletter of Khoury Johnson Leavitt*



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## **KJL SPECIAL ALERT**

The Khoury Johnson and Leavitt team remain informed and engaged during these times of uncertainty. We are in communication with leadership in the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of state government, in addition to locals on a regular basis. Updates will continue every Friday as a mechanism to recap relevant activity from the past week.

# COURT RULES GOVERNOR CAN EXTEND EMERGENCY WITHOUT LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL

The Michigan Court of Claims ruled today that Governor Whitmer can extend the State of Emergency via the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act. This will likely be appealed and will land in the Michigan Supreme Court.

## GOVERNOR'S ORDER ALLOWS GATHERINGS OF TEN PEOPLE OR LESS, WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING

LANSING, Mich. -- Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed executive order 2020-96 to reopen retail businesses and auto dealerships by appointment statewide on Tuesday, May 26, as part of her MI Safe Start plan. The governor's executive order also lifts the requirement that health care providers delay some nonessential medical, dental, and veterinary procedures statewide beginning on Friday, May 29. And the order authorizes small gatherings of 10 people or less starting immediately, as long as participants practice social distancing.

"The data shows that Michigan is ready to phase in these sectors of our economy, but we must stay vigilant and ensure we're doing everything we can to protect ourselves and our families from the spread of COVID-19," said Governor Whitmer. "On behalf of our brave first responders on the front lines of this crisis, we must continue to all do our part by staying safer at home. We owe it to them to do what we can to stop the spread of this virus."

"As businesses continue to reopen, it's crucial that they adopt strict safety measures to protect their employees, customers, and their families," said MDHHS Chief Deputy for Health and Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh Khaldun. "I know that as medical professionals begin offering nonessential procedures again, they will do everything in their power to protect patients and their families from COVID-19. I will continue to work with Governor Whitmer and our partners across Michigan to protect our families and lower the chance of a second wave."

"This is great news for dealerships across the state," said Doug North, President of North Brothers Ford. "We appreciate the governor's leadership, and we welcome the opportunity to serve our customers in a way that helps keep everyone safe from the showroom floor to the open road."

The governor also signed a separate order, Executive Order 2020-97, updating a prior rule on workplace safety. Per the amended order, reopened outpatient health-care facilities, including clinics, primary care physician offices, and dental offices, will have to adopt strict protocols to prevent infection. The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs will issue guidance to aid those facilities in adopting appropriate safeguards.

As before, businesses maintaining in-person activities must adopt social distancing practices and other mitigation measures to protect workers.

They must, among other things, provide COVID-19 training to workers that covers, at a minimum, workplace infection-control practices, the proper use of PPE, steps workers must take to notify the business or operation of any symptoms of COVID-19 or a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, and how to report unsafe working conditions.

“With today’s announcement, physicians and health care providers in Michigan are ready to resume taking care of patients,” said Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, president of the Michigan State Medical Society. “It is time for patients to catch up on the care that has been deferred for the past two months. We encourage the citizens of Michigan to tend to their health and protect each other by following public health guidance to prevent spread of this virus.”

Consistent with the governor’s previous Safer at Home orders, any individual able to medically tolerate a face covering must wear a covering over his or her nose and mouth—like a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief—when in any enclosed public space. Michiganders who are not working as critical infrastructure workers or at a business that has been authorized to reopen should stay home to protect themselves and their families from the spread of COVID-19.

*KJL Communications Director, Karen Currie*

## **SOS To Mail Absentee Voter Application To All Eligible Voters**

Over 7 million of the state’s eligible voters will receive an application for an absentee ballot that will allow them to vote by mail for the August and November elections. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson stated “by mailing the application, we have ensured that no Michigander has to choose between their health and their right to vote.”

The application will include a cover letter with instructions on how to sign up for an absentee ballot.

# NON-ESSENTIAL MEDICAL AND DENTAL PROCEDURES PERMITTED EFFECTIVE MAY 29

Governor Whitmer rescinded EO 2020-17 that postponed non-essential medical and dental procedures effective May 29th. Michigan residents who have put off seeing their dentist for a routine cleaning or delaying an elective medical procedure can now seek care without it being a medical emergency. However, medical and dental professionals will be using protocols and guidelines while serving clients to prevent the possible spread of Coronavirus.

The Michigan Ambulatory Surgery Association and My Community Dental Centers played a significant role during this crisis. Both organizations donated much needed PPE during the beginning of the pandemic when hospitals were often at capacity. Additionally, many MASA members and MCDC sites continued to operate seeing urgent patients to keep them out of a hospital emergency room.

## KJL CLIENT CALL FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK:

Director Gordon, DHHS joins us on Tuesday, May 26 at 4 PM for a zoom call. Please contact Lauren Bunn at [lauren@kjlteam.com](mailto:lauren@kjlteam.com) to RSVP to the call. The call will be moderated and we kindly request that participants submit their questions in advance.

## PPE Branded With Your Logo

If your organization is in need of purchasing branded PPE (masks and/or sanitizer), please contact Karen Currie, Director of Communications at KJL at [Karen@kjlteam.com](mailto:Karen@kjlteam.com).

## EXECUTIVE ORDERS THIS WEEK INCLUDE:

- [Governor Whitmer Reopens Auto Dealerships and Retail Businesses by Appointment, Authorizes Nonessential Medical, Dental and Veterinary Procedures](#)
- [Governor Whitmer Requests Federal Emergency Declaration to Aid in Midland County Flood Response](#)
- [Governor Whitmer Statement on Unemployment Numbers During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Governor Whitmer Signs Executive Order Enhancing, Expanding Protections for Residents and Employees of Long-Term Care Facilities](#)
- [Governor Whitmer Extends Executive Order Permitting Early Refills for up to 90-days' Supply of Pharmaceuticals, Relaxing Regulatory Limitations on Pharmacy Operation](#)
- [Governor Whitmer Declares State of Emergency for Midland County](#)
- [Governor Whitmer Signs Executive Order Expanding Worker Protections as Michigan Reengages Sectors of the Economy](#)

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.com](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.com)

[www.michigan.gov/ag](http://www.michigan.gov/ag)

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.com](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.com)

[www.congress.gov.com](http://www.congress.gov.com)

[www.michiganbusiness.org](http://www.michiganbusiness.org)

## KJL SOCIAL MEDIA



**LINKEDIN: KHOURY JOHNSON LEAVITT**

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