



Detroit Health Department

Detroit, Michigan 48201

Phone (313) 876-4000 • Fax (313) 877-9244

www.detroitmi.gov/health

Denise Fair, MPH, FACHE

Chief Public Health Officer

CITY OF DETROIT PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY EPIDEMIC ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PER MCL §333.2453

DECLARATION OF CONTINUED EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19

TO ALLOW PUBLIC MEETINGS OF GOVERNMENTAL BODIES TO BE HELD REMOTELY PER MCL §15.263

EFFECTIVE FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021

- The undersigned, Denise Fair, the Chief Public Health Officer of the City of Detroit, hereby extends the Local Public Health Emergency Epidemic Order (originally issued March 20, 2021) for the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pursuant to §333.2453 of the Public Health Code of the State of Michigan, as it has been determined that doing so is necessary to continue to protect the public health from further transmission of COVID-19 within the City of Detroit.
- COVID-19 remains an imminent threat to the public throughout Detroit. Still, meetings of governmental bodies must be accessible to all members of the public, vaccinated and unvaccinated. Therefore, I am issuing an emergency order to allow a local body to continue to hold remote meetings under the Open Meetings Act until December 31, 2021.

This order is based upon several facts and findings:

- Many areas of Detroit have vaccination rates below the level required to achieve community immunity to limit spread of the virus. This remains a concern as the spread of COVID-19 may result in emerging and more dangerous variants, such as B.1.617.2, becoming higher proportionally through the interactions of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, all of whom can become infected with COVID-19. Additionally, for certain individuals with mobility or transportation concerns, access to vaccinations has not been fully achieved, as programs for home-bound and other socially vulnerable populations are works in progress.

- The ability to access and participate in public meetings is maximized by allowing for remote, hybrid, and in-person meetings, when local bodies determine that in-person meetings may safely be held. Additionally, multiple governmental bodies in Detroit have directly communicated the desire to have the flexibility to hold hybrid meetings, with both in-person and virtual components.
- The current Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Emergency COVID-19 Order dated June 1, 2021, does not exempt public bodies from capacity limits for indoor gatherings. For a large meeting, the number of participants could exceed the available venue's capacity, creating concerns about safe and transparent public access to the meeting in conflict with the Open Meetings Act. Based on the current guidance from MDHHS, individual public bodies would be required to research, provide specific guidance, and monitor compliance with the Open Meetings Act, an undertaking that may be well beyond their expertise.
- Finally, many governmental bodies have consulted the Health Department, some on a weekly basis, seeking certainty and expressing the desire to have the appropriate emergency order(s) extended.
- In light of these facts and findings, a local public health emergency is declared, and it is ordered that each individual public body within the jurisdiction of the Detroit Health Department can plan for remote, hybrid, and in-person meetings that allow for safe public access and participation in response to the rapidly changing COVID-19 environment, as contemplated by MCL §15.263a(1)(b).

This order is hereby effective as of September 1, 2021, and will remain in effect until December 31, 2021, at 11:59 p.m., unless withdrawn or replaced by further order of my office. Such measures will be enforced, and any violations are subject to citation and penalties as outlined in the Michigan Public Health Code.

This order may be revised as well as supplemented with specific procedures and orders per the Michigan Public Health Code.

Dated: August 25, 2021



Denise Fair, MBA, MPH, FACHE
Chief Public Health Officer
City of Detroit