

# ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## Bioterrorism Preparedness

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## Communicable Disease

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## Environmental Health

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## NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Allegan County Continues COVID-19 Response amid Recent MI Supreme Court Ruling**

**(Allegan, MI)**— On Friday, October 2, 2020, the Michigan Supreme Court held that "the executive orders issued by the Governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic lack any basis under Michigan law." The Court indicated that its decision "leaves open many avenues for the Governor and Legislature to work together" to address the challenges posed by the pandemic. Importantly, the Court's order does not affect the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) orders, which require organizations to have many of the same health and safety protocols in place as required by the Governor's executive orders.

In light of the recent Court ruling, the Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) has already received a number of questions as to how this will affect any organizational or local community plans and protocols. As we move forward together in this pandemic, organizations and the public need to understand the impact of the Supreme Court ruling and what is required by the MDHHS orders. ACHD is reviewing the existing orders and gaining clarity as to their standing. If necessary, ACHD will develop next steps to fill any gaps needed to protect public health. We will ensure compliance with the Court ruling and will work with legal advisors and State/regional public health partners to develop any local protocols/orders.

"Allegan County has done a great job in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 through the strategies that have been in place throughout the community. We remain confident our community will continue those efforts and help keep each other safe," Allegan County Health Officer, Angelique Joynes, MPH, RN states.

At this time, the Allegan County Health Department stresses the importance of consistency and keeping core COVID-19 mitigation strategies in place while more specific guidance is developed. At a minimum, these strategies include proper mask use, social distancing, frequent handwashing, and staying home if you are sick. ACHD will continue to provide updated information as it becomes available.

COVID-19 resources and updates can be found by visiting [www.allegancounty.org/health](http://www.allegancounty.org/health) or following @AlleganCountyHD on Facebook.

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