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7 de agosto, 2020 Weekly/Semanal 16 páginas Vol. 67, No. 21

BACK TO SCHOOL IN ERA OF COVID-19

## Many area school districts are delaying the new school year, with Online at Home learning

By La Prensa Staff

The Toledo Public Schools board of education, for example, will push back the start of the academic year until after Labor Day weekend and students will learn at home online, much the same way they ended the prior school year. Fall sports are in serious jeopardy, because those won't start until Oct. 1.

The TPS academic year will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020 with students learning remotely. Students will have access to all learning resources and will be provided a digital learning device, such as a Google Chromebook. School district officials are working to expand wi-fi access. In a statement on the district website, TPS officials emphasize "state-licensed and credentialed educators will teach live every day."

Those are the parameters described in what is called a "Red Light" status. TPS administrators developed traffic-light themed instruction levels for the upcoming academic year. The red-light status is reflective of recent increases in coronavirus cases in Lucas County and state-wide.

"As you all know, there is no right way or right

answer. In some aspects, you're going to have some people who are going to be upset. In some aspects, you're going to have some people who are happy," said TPS Superintendent Dr. Romules Durant in a video posted on the district website. "At the end of the day, we had to make a decision which is best and safe for our students, as well as our staff."

The district warns students, families, and TPS staff should be prepared to remain under that status for the entire first semester, but that status could change as the COVID-19 situation warms.



Eric Gordon, CEO Cleveland Metropolitan School District

"I think every one of you will appreciate we're not just going into remote to stay in remote," said Dr. Durant.

"We're going to evaluate other schools, in essence of coming back full or in half, will impact school culture. By having that information, it will help us determine what is best for our students and staff to come back and do things in a hybrid way."

Students can pick up free breakfast and lunch meals from their assigned school for the week. They'll also be eligible for all active school sports and extracurricular activities at their home school. However, no TPS sports season will begin before Oct. 1, leaving other schools scrambling to fill nonleague contests on their fall schedules.

For example, Delta and Swanton in the Northwest Ohio Athletic League were scheduled to face TPS opponents in the second week of the football season. Instead, they'll play each other and count the game as a nonleague contest, in addition to a league rivalry game later in the season.

That also leaves TPS high schools, at best, to engage in a City League football season, which likely would leave them ineligible for postseason play due to a lack of games. However, Ohio's governor has yet to weigh in on whether any sports will advance to a full season. Scrimmages in all fall sports



Dr. Romules Durant TPS

were eliminated, even though practices were allowed to begin on schedule Aug. 1.

A yellow light status means students could continue to opt to continue a virtual learning opportunity, as opposed to going to classes. However, physical attendance in a school would be on an "A/B" schedule. Students would either attend in-person classes on Monday and Thursday (Group A), or Tuesday and Friday (Group B). Wednesday would be at-home online learning.

Students would have assignments and online learning to complete on their off days during a yellow light status. Meal service would continue, with students taking home lunch and breakfast for their non-attendance days. All students in grades 3-12 will receive a Google Chromebook for their schoolwork. Elementary students

(Continued on Page 13)

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BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL ISSUE



## Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation: “Our name has changed. Our purpose has not.”

By: Salina Bishop

The Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation, formerly known as the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation, exists solely to bring individuals, organizations, and the community together to help meet the needs of Grand Rapids Public Schools. As the Foundation for GRPS, we strive to strengthen the educational experiences of every single student, by working alongside the district in recognizing and identifying needs. In doing so, we bring a community together who are driven to make an impact on student's educations.

Our journey began many years ago in 1993. Through the vision of dedicated community members, our Foundation took shape. There was a need, and we wanted to help be a solution. That vision has not changed. With education constantly

morphing, a world-wide pandemic and government funding continuously being pared down, our purpose is more important than ever!

We know the key to providing the highest caliber academic opportunities for students is the community. Through philanthropy, we can help make education at GRPS more advanced and meaningful than students in classrooms and far more equitable to neighboring districts. How can we, as a community, accomplish this?

It means the generosity of individuals, corporations, organizations, community leaders and the like must come together to give of their resources. It means existing outside ourselves to ensure we provide every student, from every walk of life, an education that surpasses expectation.

When we bring people together to apply their gifts toward a greater purpose, the Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation can provide funds that support and create robust and equitable academic environments. The Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation believes every single GRPS student deserves to thrive without limits and receive an education that feeds and nourishes unlimited potential. Our students are worthy of this.

For more information on how you can be a part of something greater than yourself - visit [www.grpsf.org](http://www.grpsf.org).

*Pictured above: Students explore West Michigan watersheds through the Teach for the Watershed program. An enrichment experience supported by the Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation.*

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Nuestra firma cuenta con oficinas en Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland y Columbus, Ohio; Memphis, Minneapolis; Nashville; New York; and Raleigh, North Carolina. Hemos asistido a clientes en el estado de Ohio y en el resto de los Estados Unidos; además de ser una firma reconocida internacionalmente. Contáctenos hoy para obtener la experiencia y la ayuda necesaria.

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“Las piedras rodando se encuentran.”—Rico de La Prensa quoting Mexican proverb.



## Do you dream of a career in healthcare?



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Born and raised in Toledo, I always dreamed of becoming successful and independent. Being the only girl with five brothers that weren't all that interested in school, graduating, or attending college, we didn't talk about careers and school. However, there was always a voice telling me I can, and will, go further. Life has brought me many challenges which kept me determined while remaining humble. Through it all I had a dream of, "More." I wasn't sure exactly what that was or what it looked like, but I wanted it. There was a point where I was working full time and attending school and became pregnant. In that moment, I knew it was time to achieve that, "More." So many people doubted me, saying I would end up like my mom, pregnant, a drop out with a bunch of kids. That stuck with me and I not only decided I was going to graduate, but I was going to stop the cycle in my family. I wanted to be educated, I wanted more for my daughter and I wasn't going to stop until I achieved it! I graduated high school and continued working. I worked hard and received a promotion; it felt good. Yet, it wasn't enough; there were bills and I needed to bring in more income. I wanted to get to a point where my daughter and I could live comfortably. At that point I took on a second job, but that took me away from spending time with my daughter, and she was spending more time with a sitter. I was exhausted. In the midst of this, I started seeing someone and things were getting serious and then he was in a tragic accident. He was in the hospital and almost died; it took a long time for him to heal. Being in the hospital, I remember not understanding what the nurses and doctors were saying, wondering why he was on the meds he was on. I started to get curious and asking questions of the staff. The more I asked, the more I wanted to learn. Given my experience growing up, I always questioned if I was smart enough for school or if I could pass; this new interest pushed me to give it a try. I took and finished a STNA course; from that moment I knew I wanted to become a nurse. I no longer felt like I wasn't smart enough. I worked as an aide for eight years. In 2017 a friend was talking to me about nursing school and I was intrigued. I wanted to join her, but didn't know how to go about it and that is when she mentioned a program called HPOG. She gave me all the details and I applied. I knew if I did get in the HPOG I was going to school, and if I didn't, I still was going to school. The day I received the news I was accepted I felt so blessed. I participated in the program Getting Ahead which really helped me mentally prepare for college. It hasn't been easy – there has been a lot of blood, sweat and tears – but never impossible. The first three days of class I questioned myself. I had to take math and reading classes to pass the entrance exam, but I did it. I enrolled full time at Athena Career Academy on April 30, 2018; it was a proud moment for me. I was finally doing what that voice in the back of my head had been encouraging me to do. Although I had a long way to go, I was happy to have the opportunity to change my life story. I graduated October 17, 2019. A moment that I will never forget is seeing my little girl sitting behind me in the audience at graduation saying, "Hi Mommy," and "That's my mommy." It was the best feeling ever. A huge thank you to all the people at HPOG who supported me through this journey!-Brittney Cortez



Brittney Cortez, LPN  
Merit House, Toledo

**If you are ready to start your journey, call the HPOG information line at 419-213-6388 and leave a message. An HPOG success coach will return your call.**

The Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG), administered by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, was created to provide education and training to TANF recipients and other low-income individuals for occupations in the health care field that pay well and are expected to either experience labor shortages or be in high demand. HPOG participants are given the opportunity to obtain higher education, training and support services needed to secure positions that have opportunity for advancement and sustainability, ultimately leading these individuals on a pathway to financial self-sufficiency. Some areas include Community Health Worker, Dental Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician, Healthcare Information Technology, Nurse Aide, Medical Assistant, Medical Secretary/Coding, Physical Therapy Assistants, Surgical Technologist and Human and Social Services Aide. To be eligible, applicants must be Lucas County residents, be able to pass an FBI background check, not currently be in school or have attended classes in the last 6 months, or already possess a completed degree such as an Associate's, Bachelor's or LPN etc. Individuals considered must also meet income guidelines.



This document was supported by Grant [90FX0042] from the Administration of Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS." HPOG Grant funding supported by the Administration of Children and Families. All new eligible applicants will be selected by lottery to participate in these training opportunities. Not all eligible applicants will be selected."



## Cuba pospone resolución contra embargo en ONU por COVID-19

LA HABANA, 29 VII 20 (AP): Cuba pospuso hasta mayo la presentación de su histórica resolución ante la ONU para condenar las sanciones de Estados Unidos contra la isla debido a las limitaciones al debate por la propagación del nuevo coronavirus.

“Esta decisión responde, únicamente, a las consecuencias epidemiológicas generadas por la pandemia de la COVID-19 y su impacto directo y práctico en los trabajos en la sede de la ONU”, dijo el miércoles la viceministra Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo en declaraciones a periodistas.

Usualmente Cuba presentaba su proyecto entre los meses de

octubre a noviembre de cada año, pero esta vez pasará su propuesta para mayo de 2021, dijo la funcionaria.

Rodríguez advirtió que la modalidad virtual que se impondrá en la Asamblea General de la ONU a iniciarse en el mes de septiembre debido al pico de contagios en Nueva York, sede del organismo, no favorecerá el debate “cuyos positivos resultados son seguidos con mucha atención por parte del pueblo cubano”.

Oficialmente el documento a consideración de los países miembros se denomina “Necesidad de poner fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por los Estados Unidos de América contra Cuba” y es la vigésimo novena

oportunidad en la cual se presenta.

Con el correr de los años casi todos los países se han pronunciado en contra de las medidas de Washington —incluso Estados Unidos se abstuvo en 2006—, que desde la toma de posesión del actual presidente Donald Trump se endurecieron.

Estados Unidos impuso sanciones contra Cuba en la década de los 60 presionando un cambio de modelo político poco afín en la isla.

En noviembre de 2019 la resolución fue adoptada por 187 votos, tres en contra —Estados Unidos, Brasil e Israel— y dos abstenciones —Colombia y Ucrania—.



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## GRPS ANNOUNCES PLANS TO START BACK 100% VIRTUALLY FOR FIRST NINE WEEKS

Plan includes one-to-one devices, internet:

The safety, health, and well-being of our students, families, and staff has been at the forefront of all decision making regarding the start of school.

Parent and staff survey data showed the highest level of support for virtual learning.

Recommendation is to start school on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 100% virtually for the first 9 weeks with continuous assessment of the plan and preparations to shift to hybrid or 100% in-person.

District is seeking continued flexibility and support from the state on average daily attendance, student count, instructional days and hours, and more.

New virtual plan increases synchronous, direct instruction.

Announced one-to-one devices for all students with supports for internet access.

New digital literacy classes through Parent University.

Increased help and support for students and families.

High school athletics continue as planned in accordance with the executive order and MHSAA guidelines.

The following is the presentation made by GRPS Superintendent Leadriane Roby today regarding the district's return to learn plan:

"Good afternoon. A tremendous amount of time, energy, expertise, planning, stakeholder feedback, and collaboration with the union has gone into developing our COVID-10 Preparedness Response Plan.

We have relied on multiple sources for direction including, but not limited to:

- The KISD Futures Committee

- The State Return to Learn Task Force that Dr. Gorman served on

- The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force on Education Return to School Advisory Council

- Kent County Health Department

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

- Centers for Disease Control

- The Governor's Office

- And more.

On June 30, 2020, Governor Whitmer issued an Executive Order that included the recommendations from her COVID-19 Task Force on the MI Safe Schools Roadmap.

The executive order requires all districts to develop three plans in preparation for the fall — 100% in person, 100% distance learning, and a hybrid combination of the two.

As part of our planning, we surveyed our parents and staff to get their feedback about our distance learning plan in the Spring and their thoughts and concerns about returning to school in the fall.

The KISD survey in June received nearly 4000 responses from GRPS parents. Specifically, on the safety question...

- 71% said they are extremely or very confident that distance learning would be the safest

After Governor Whitmer released her Executive Order and the Michigan Safe Schools Roadmap, we surveyed parents and staff again. The survey technically ended last week Thursday and the findings show the most support for starting back in distance learning.

- Of nearly 7,000 parents representing more than 12,000 students, 48% chose distance learning as the most preferred option, followed by hybrid at 26%, and in person at 25%.

- Of the nearly 1,000 staff members, 53% most preferred distance learning, followed by 25% for hybrid, and 33% for in person learning.

We have repeatedly said the safety, health, and well-being of our students and staff are our top priority and will be the top priority in our decision making.

Based on the data, we are recommending that we start back to school 100% distance learning for the first marking period which goes until October 21.

During that 9 week period of time, we will continuously assess our decision and will be prepared for a potential in-person or hybrid return to school.

Of course, we will also follow any executive direction from the state and federal governments. In order to implement our virtual plan, we will need continued flexibility and support from Governor Whitmer and the state Leg-

islature on our per pupil count, average daily attendance, and instructional days and hours.

We are recommending an increase in the amount of synchronous teaching at the elementary and secondary levels.

We are in collaboration with the teachers' union and will be releasing specific details at the Board's Academic Achievement Committee on August 5. In conjunction with the Academic Achievement Committee, we are planning a virtual town hall meeting on August 5 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm.

In order to further strengthen and improve our distance learning plan, we will be launching one to one devices for all GRPS students.

We will also be providing resources to ensure all students have reliable internet access.

Parent University is in the process of developing a digital literacy training for parents and we will continue to provide technical support for students and parents.

We are establishing a "Family Helpdesk" for just-in-time support for families. The Family Helpdesk will be staffed to respond to general questions of all types including technology questions, student passwords, and more. Parents can call the main line at 616-819-2000 or email [distancelearning-helpdesk@grps.org](mailto:distancelearning-helpdesk@grps.org).

Its distance learning plan also includes support and material packets for students with special needs where online learning is not the best option for our most vulnerable students.

We are still planning to continue with athletics in accordance with the executive order and MHSAA guidelines.

We will follow all rules and regulations related to nutrition services.

In conclusion, we said that the health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff would be our top priority in decision making.

I believe starting with distance learning is practicing what we preach and is by far our safest approach to the start of school.

Thank you and I would like to open it up for questions."

## MHSAA waits to start football, soccer, volleyball games

By DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press

LANSING, July 29, 2020 (AP)—The Michigan High School Athletic Association said Wednesday that competition can begin Aug. 19 and 21, 2020 for lower-risk sports like golf, tennis and cross country, but it held off on allowing the start of football, volleyball and soccer games during the coronavirus pandemic.

The group said it will make decisions about competition timelines for the latter three sports by Aug. 20, dependent on how the spread of COVID-19 is trending. Athletes in all sports but football can start practice on Aug. 12, while football practices with full player pads and equipment will be delayed a week

until Aug. 17.

The MHSAA's representative council voted to cancel scrimmages in all fall sports and limited the number of teams that can compete in regular-season tournaments, invitationals and other multi-team events.

Girls volleyball and girls swimming and diving are contingent on whether Gov. Gretchen Whitmer lifts a prohibition on indoor sports facilities. Practices can begin outdoors if possible. It was not immediately clear how high school sports may be affected by the governor's requirement that participants in much of the state—those regions in phase five of her reopening plan—keep at least 6 feet apart "at all times" during such activities.

Phasing in competition is designed to deter the spread of the virus the MHSAA said.

Executive director Mark Uyl said offseason training was a positive for athletes this summer and it is "of utmost importance to continue athletic activity moving forward. If we take a month off, our students will find opportunities to compete through non-school entities that may not be as focused on safety."

He said the association will make "wise decisions based on medical guidance" and the "easy way out" would have been to postpone sports until next spring.

"If we don't play this fall, it won't be because we didn't make every effort," Uyl said.

## Gov tightens virus rules up north; Detroit casinos to reopen

By DAVID EGGERT and COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

LANSING, July 29, 2020 (AP)—Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Wednesday tightened pandemic restrictions in northern Michigan while letting Detroit's three casinos reopen at limited capacity after four-plus months of being closed to curb the coronavirus.

The new limits covering 32 northern counties match ones already in place in the rest of the state. Indoor gatherings in the Traverse City and Upper Peninsula regions—where the rate of new COVID-19 cases is lower—will be capped at 10 starting Friday at 12:01 a.m., down from 50. Bars must close for indoor service if more than 70% of their gross receipts are from alcohol sales.

The three casinos in Detroit can open Aug. 5, 2020. They will have to ban smoking and limit capacity to 15%. Tribal casinos, which are not regulated by the state, have already reopened and have been operating safely, Whitmer said.

"After seeing a resurgence in cases connected to social gatherings across the state, we must further limit gatherings for the health of our community and economy," the Democratic governor said in a statement. She cited "super-spreading" events often attended by young people and linked to outbreaks—an East Lansing bar, a house party in Saline, a sandbar party at Torch Lake.

Indoor theaters, gyms, bowling alleys and

places like outdoor concert venues can remain open in the Upper Peninsula and much of the northern Lower Peninsula, subject to capacity caps and distancing requirements.

The state health department on Wednesday reported two virus-related deaths and nearly 1,000 additional cases. About 300 were older results due to a backlog from a commercial lab.

Michigan had the country's ninth-lowest rate of new cases over the past two weeks, according to an Associated Press analysis of data from John Hopkins University. But the seven-day average, nearly 700, was up by about 133 from July 14 and 338 from a month ago. Deaths remained well below April peaks.

Meanwhile, an indoor wedding reception in the Detroit area that had more than 100 people in attendance was linked to five confirmed COVID-19 cases, officials said. Wayne County's Public Health Division was investigating the July 18 event at the Crystal Gardens Banquet Hall in Southgate.

Those confirmed to have the coronavirus have been instructed to self-isolate. Wayne County's communicable disease team was reaching out to others who attended to see if there were more potential cases.

The reception was in violation of Whitmer's order limiting the number of people attending indoor events, county officials said. The measure limits attendance to no more than 10 indoors and 100 outdoors.

Notifications were be-

ing sent to all banquet halls in the county "reaffirming the rules" of the order, the county said. Inspections at banquet halls and other large venues also will be increased.

"The safety and protection of Wayne County residents is our top priority," said Carol Austerberry, county health officer. "Businesses must be intentional about following the rules to limit the spread of COVID-19 and save lives."

Mort Meisner, a spokesman for the banquet hall, said the facility holds 1,200 people and that those attending the event practiced social distancing. They arrived about noon and left by 3:30 p.m., he said.

"There was no dancing, no partying. It was a lunch," Meisner said. "It had been scheduled a number of months ago. Many of our events have moved into October, November, December. Some, if applicable, are held outside in a city park."

"... We don't see any difference in equating a small event of 100 people versus a restaurant who is also practicing social distancing, carefully," Meisner said.

In Gladwin County in central Michigan, health officials reported at least 42 cases linked to The Spring Ministries summer camp. The Christian camp said on its website that it was informed that a camper tested positive after returning home. Subsequently, "many" staff were confirmed with infections, too.

Williams contributed from West Bloomfield.



## Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority announces 'Home to Stay Program'

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) and Lucas County Job and Family Services (LCJFS) partner to provide rental assistance for LMHA Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligible individuals and families exiting a homeless shelter

TOLEDO, July 29, 2020: Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is excited to announce its "Home to Stay" program. Home to Stay will provide eviction prevention and housing stability assistance to LMHA clients and local families exiting a homeless shelter. Clients must be TANF eligible and can receive up to \$1,200 in assistance for past due rent charges and up to \$1,000 towards first month's rent when exiting a shelter.

Clients will also attend a housing stability class facilitated by Northwest Ohio Homeownership Development Association (NOHDA). The class will cover housing re-

lated topics such as budgeting, credit and landlord relations. Kathy Tucker, CEO of NOHDA, stated, "It is through these significant partnerships that families in our community can obtain and preserve their right to housing. Home to Stay offers hope to those who have faced a financial hardship and are getting back on their feet without losing the roof over their head. It is with great honor that NOHDA continues to serve as a partner to the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority."

As a long-standing anchor institution, LMHA continues to develop initiatives that serve low-income persons and families in the Toledo Metropolitan Statistical Area. Home to Stay is funded by a \$150,000 Lucas County TANF grant administered by Lucas County Job and Family Services. "We are proud of the meaningful partnerships we've developed with LMHA and other community organizations to assist families to move out of poverty. This program is vital to our community at this time -

giving the affordable housing crisis we're currently experiencing in Lucas County", said Breda E. Osburn, Director, Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services.

Through this partnership, LMHA, LCJFS and NOHDA hope to stabilize and maintain housing for many individuals and families who may be experiencing temporary financial stress. Joaquin Cintron Vega, LMHA president and CEO, stated, "LMHA is appreciative of Job and Family Services for providing the needed grant funding for this program and to NOHDA, who is providing the housing stability class at no cost to LMHA or to the client. This is the result of an effective communication and interaction process with our community partners. We have identified a common vision of success to provide more options to our low-income families and individuals during this crisis."

For more information about the program, contact LMHA at (419)-259-9400.

## Toledo Museum of Art plans virtual and in-person art classes in August

Virtual art classes for youth and adults and in-person workshops for adult students will be offered by the Toledo Museum of Art beginning Aug. 10. Courses will be offered in a variety of media, with materials included and no experience necessary. Class topics include glass, jewelry, drawing, comic book design (ages 12-18) and a colorful Japanese marbling technique for children (ages 5-7). Registration for August classes opens July 16 and closes Aug. 6.

Instruction will be provided for virtual classes using a combination of prerecorded videos and live-stream sessions from the instructor. Select adult workshops will take place in-person at the Museum with small class sizes and enforced guidelines for physical distancing.

Each registration includes a kit of materials for the class. Glass participants will pick up class supplies on Friday, Aug. 7, and youth will pick up supplies on Monday, Aug. 10. Live sessions for select virtual classes will take place on Monday, Aug. 10, and Wednesday, Aug. 12.

"Toledo Museum of Art looks forward to continuing our tradition of quality art instruction this summer," said Mike Deetsch, the Museum's Emma Leah Buppis director of education and engagement. "These classes can be a fun way to explore a new medium or an opportunity to increase skill and hone technique in an artist's area of interest."

Due to the nature of the class format, scholarships are not available, and the teen workshop program has been put on hold temporarily.

To register for an August art class, visit tickets.toledomuseum.org or call 419-254-5080 beginning Friday, July 17.

### Aug. 10-14: Virtual Adult Classes

**Glass Fusing**  
Class Capacity: 15  
Instructor: Misha Nalepa  
Cost: \$45 members, \$55 nonmembers

In this virtual course participants will cover glass fusing, the process of melting multiple pieces of glass into one fused sheet in an electric kiln. The class will cover how to set up and adhere glass color and scraps to a clear pane and the process of

fusing to create a design. This virtual class is scheduled for the week of August 10-14. All instructional videos will be emailed to students on Monday, Aug. 10. Students will be invited to virtually attend an optional, live session with the instructor on Monday, Aug. 10 at 6 p.m.

Note: All fusing will need to be completed at the Museum by the instructor. Students will drop off their finished glued pane on Wednesday, Aug. 12, and can elect to pick up their completed piece or have it shipped for a nominal fee.

**Glass Mosaic**  
Class Capacity: 15  
Instructor: Misha Nalepa  
Cost: \$45 members, \$55 nonmembers

In this virtual course participants will create their own glass mosaic at home! Mosaic works made by inlaying various materials onto a base to create imagery or patterns. Pictures or patterns are created by arranging these different materials such as stone, glass or ceramic and sealing them together with an adhesive.

This virtual class is scheduled for the week of Aug. 10-14. All instructional videos will be emailed to students on Monday, Aug. 10. Students will be invited to virtually attend an optional, live session with the instructor on Monday, Aug. 10 at 7 p.m.

Aug. 14-16: In-Person Adult Workshops

**Cuff Bracelets**  
Class Capacity: 4  
Instructor: Hans Rubel  
Cost: \$50 members, \$60 nonmembers

Create your own unique cuff bracelet in brass or copper using hammers, stamps and mallets.

This workshop is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.

**Draw from Nature**  
Class Capacity: 8  
Instructor: Michael Clink  
Cost: \$30 members, \$40 nonmembers

Inspired by the outdoor world around you! In this one-day workshop participants will explore the Museum grounds and learn how to use observational skills to

draw what they see. Supplies will be provided and no experience is necessary.

This workshop is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 15 from 9 a.m.-noon and will be located outdoors. If this class is impacted by inclement weather, it will take place in the galleries and classroom.

**Hammered Earrings**  
Class Capacity: 6  
Instructor: Hans Rubel  
Cost: \$50 members, \$60 nonmembers

Participants in this class will explore how to make their own earrings with a hammered texture.

This workshop is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 16, from 1 to 3 p.m. and will be located outdoors. If this class is impacted by inclement weather, it will take place in the galleries and classroom.

### Aug. 10-14: Virtual Youth Classes

**Family Art Club (Ages 5-7 with adult partner)**  
Class Capacity: 20  
Instructor: Regina Jankowski  
Cost: \$15 members, \$25 nonmembers

In this virtual class, discover suminagashi, a Japanese marbling technique used to create a vibrant and colorful work of art using water and ink.

This virtual workshop is scheduled for the week of Aug. 10-14. All instructional video will be emailed to students on Monday, Aug. 10. This class does not include a virtual live session.

**Comic Book Design (Ages 12-18)**  
Class Capacity: 15  
Instructor: Imani Lateef  
Cost: \$55 members, \$65 nonmembers

Students in this virtual class will learn the basics of comic book storytelling, page building and character design.

This virtual workshop is scheduled for the week of Aug. 10-14. All instructional videos will be emailed to students on Monday, Aug. 10. Students will be invited to virtually attend an optional, live session with the instructor on Wednesday, Aug. 12, from 11 a.m. to noon.

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# Comercios mexicanos batallan durante pandemia con poca ayuda

Por CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO, 28 VII 20 (AP): Los empresarios mexicanos están a duras penas tratando de sobrevivir la recesión económica \_a menudo sin lograrlo— que se ha profundizado debido a la pandemia del COVID-19, sin recibir prácticamente asistencia del gobierno.

Los propietarios de comercios reportan que están extendiendo crédito a sus clientes mientras despiden a empleados, o bien les reducen sus horas o sus salarios.

La Alianza Nacional de Pequeños Comerciantes reportó el martes que más de 150.000 comercios, la mayoría pequeñas empresas, han sido obligados a cerrar durante la pandemia. La semana pasada, la agencia de estadísticas del gobierno dijo que el 92% de los negocios de todos los tamaños reportaron que no

habían recibido ningún apoyo gubernamental en abril y mayo debido a la pandemia, según su sondeo más reciente.

Según la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe de la ONU, el gobierno mexicano incrementó su gasto en apenas 1,1% de su producto interno bruto para afrontar los efectos de la pandemia, uno de los aumentos más bajos de toda la región. Mientras tanto, el gobierno se ha apegado a sus metas de austeridad, que han incluido reducir los salarios de muchos funcionarios públicos.

“La recesión económica por la que pasa el país es de una dimensión mayor” a lo que el gobierno federal está haciendo ahora, dijo Cuauhtémoc Rivera, presidente de la Alianza Nacional de Pequeños Comerciantes (Anpec), que incluye aproximadamente 95.000 miembros.

La Anpec representa a comercios de vecindarios \_tiendas de la esquina, tortillerías, carnicerías y otros\_ que son los más cercanos a los clientes y que suelen ser negocios familiares en sus propias casas. Ven las penurias de los clientes, que compran más productos esenciales a crédito y parecen estar emocionalmente exhaustos, dijo.

Su sondeo más reciente, presentado el martes, mostró que 79% de los propietarios dijeron que sus clientes no tenían suficiente dinero para comprar la canasta básica de alimentos, dijo.

“La recesión significa desempleo, significa desesperanza”, dijo Rivera. “La gente no trae ánimo de volver a arrancar al motor”.

Sin embargo, el presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador asegura que lo peor ya pasó.

“Yo creo que ya tocamos fondo”, dijo el

viernes López Obrador. “Les diría que lo más difícil fue a finales de abril”. En abril, México perdió 550.000 empleos en la economía formal, alrededor de la mitad de los empleos que se han perdido hasta la fecha.

Sin embargo, el mandatario señala que más de la mitad de los trabajadores operan en la economía informal, donde según cálculos el número de trabajos perdidos es mucho mayor.

El presidente ha sostenido que dar apoyo financiero significativo a las empresas solo resultará en corrupción. En cambio, ha ofrecido créditos de bajo interés a pequeñas empresas, de 1.000 dólares, así como créditos a algunos trabajadores en el sector informal.

Empresas grandes y pequeñas han dicho que esa respuesta del gobierno es insuficiente.

López Obrador ha presionado por reabrir la economía rápidamente,

incluso en momentos en que las infecciones y muertes por COVID-19 continúan aumentando. El gobierno ha reportado casi 400.000 infectados confirmados y más de 44.000 muertes, pero ambas cifras sin consideradas ampliamente como subestimaciones significativas debido a la falta de pruebas diagnósticas generalizadas.

El restaurante Papamía, un lugar con 10 mesas y que ofrece opciones asequibles para desayunar y almorzar, generalmente atiende a trabajadores de oficina, pero como la mayoría de esas oficinas continúan cerradas, sólo está haciendo alrededor del 30% de las ventas que solía tener antes de la pandemia, dijo la propietaria Minerva de la Garza González.

El negocio permaneció abierto durante toda la pandemia, aunque durante meses sólo tenía permitido

vender comida para llevar. Hasta ahora, De la Garza ha podido mantener abierto su restaurante gracias a los ahorros que tenía, pero el lunes dijo que ya se los acabó todos.

Redujo el sueldo de sus empleados \_sabían que no encontrarían trabajo en otro lugar\_ y el propietario del local que renta hasta ahora la ha dejado retrasar el pago del alquiler, pero ya siente el peso de la deuda acumulada.

Si las ventas no aumentan a mediados de agosto, dijo, no está segura de poder aguantar. Dijo que el gobierno está haciendo bien las cosas pese a tratarse de una situación difícil, pero no ha buscado la poca ayuda disponible del gobierno.

“No porque no lo necesite”, dijo, “pero siento que hay otras personas más urgentes que yo”.



**DAVE YOST**  
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- Asking for sexually explicit photos and using them as blackmail.

**Protect yourself and your children by:**

- Staying current with apps, social media and websites that your children may be using.
- Letting your children know that it is OK to talk to you about unsafe interactions with others.
- Never giving out personal, identifying information, such as your address or Social Security number.
- Never sending sexually explicit photos of yourself online or by phone.
- Monitoring your child's internet usage and talking to them about their activities, including online gaming.
- Never agreeing to meet someone you don't know in a private place.

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For more information, please contact the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition at [www.lchtc.org](http://www.lchtc.org) or [www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/HumanTrafficking](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/HumanTrafficking)



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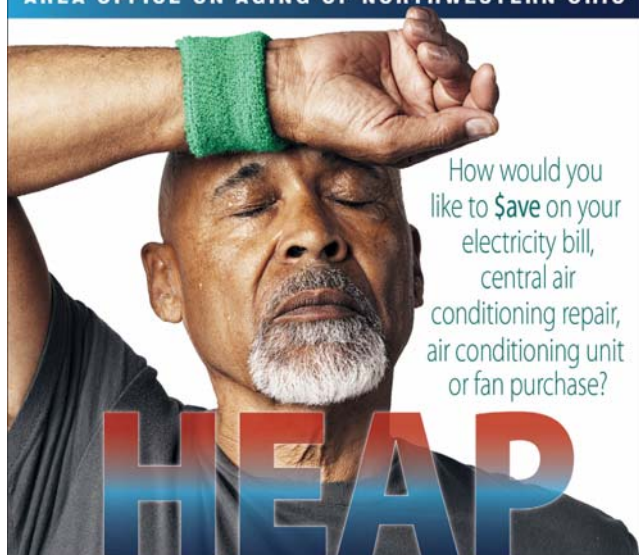
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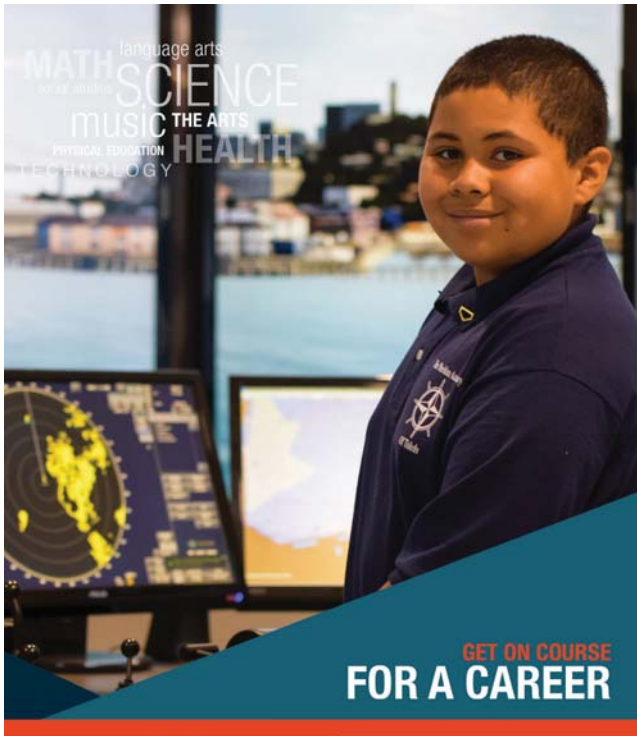
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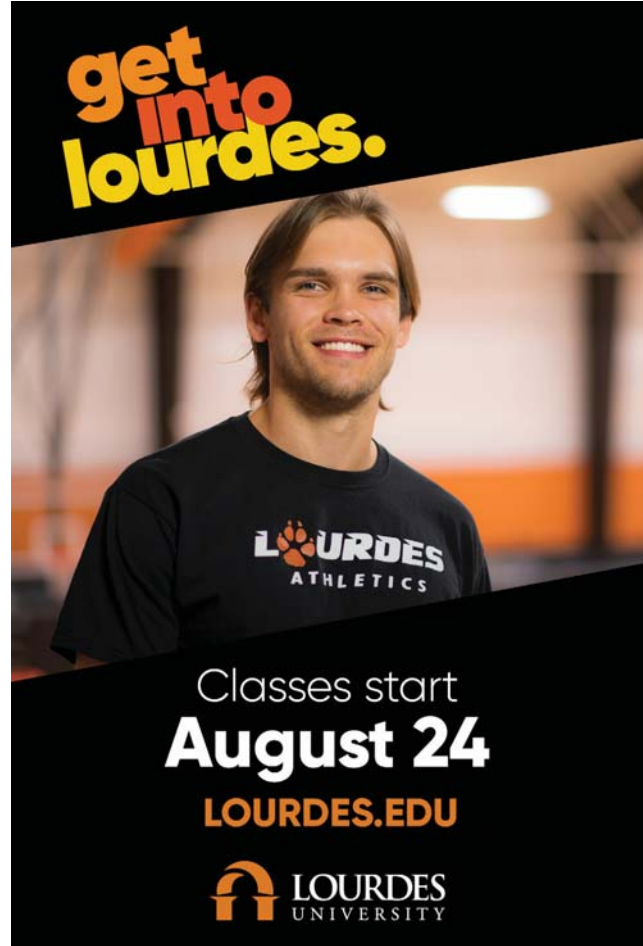
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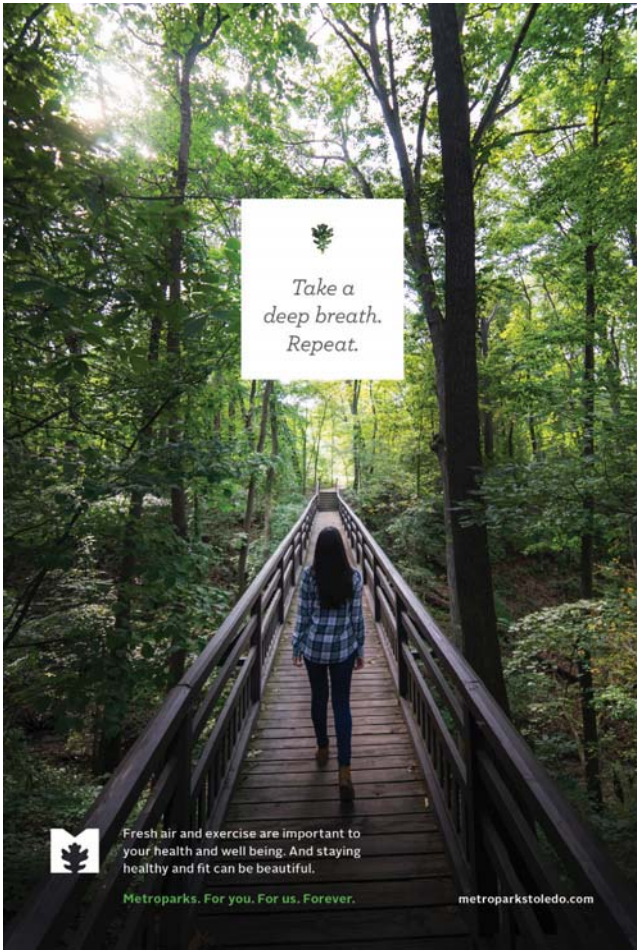
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## El Centro de Servicios Sociales Upcoming Events August 2020



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, El Centro's offices are offering services via telephone to the community with a limited amount of staff. If services are needed and you need to come to the office, we encourage you to call the office first (440-277-8235) to receive the new procedure for office visits. To follow are services that are still in operation:

- Money Management/Representative Payee services for 236 individuals with severe mental health illness and physical disabilities
- Spanish informational and referral phone line 211
- Mental Health Navigator Line (440-240-7025)
- Medical and Mental Health Interpretations (via telephone) with contract agencies
- Disseminating information to community on COVID-19
- Census 2020
- Monthly Food Pantry

**August 5, 12 and 19** - Comprando Rico y Sano are small group meetings that provide cooking demonstrations to promote health-conscious shopping, smart food choices, and cost-saving strategies, as well as educate and enroll eligible Latinos into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). El Centro is happy to announce that these meetings will be held every Wednesday starting July 8 from 11 am - 1:00 pm. Please join us virtually via Zoom every week to cover themes like: How to make healthy food at home; the importance of reading food labels; how to shop safely during COVID-19 Pandemic; strategies to manage feelings of anxiety and depression; Yoga and Zumba. Meetings will be held in Spanish. To join us please contact us via email at [abarron@lorainelcentro.org](mailto:abarron@lorainelcentro.org) or call us at 440-277-8235. We look forward to having you participate in these classes.

**August 15 and August 22** - (9:30 am to 12:30 pm) - Bilingual Financial Education Classes - These classes will help to improve financial literacy to the residents of the Greater Lorain area. El Centro will offer future homebuyers two financial literacy courses (three hours per class) focused on: Financial Recovery (Credit Repair) and Money Matters (Budgeting & Saving). Classes will be held at El Centro. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, we are limiting class size and following social distancing and all safety requirements. Register early to reserve your seat. To register or for more information, call Maria Carrion at 440-277-8235.

**August 20** - El Centro "Drive Thru" Mobile Food Pantry in collaboration with Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, has moved to Oakwood Park. Volunteers will place the items in your trunk (be sure to have your trunk empty). The Food Pantry will start at **3:30 p.m. (NOTE - NEW TIME CHANGE)** until the food runs out. Income eligible households (below 200% of the poverty level) are given one box of food and multiple bags of fresh vegetables on a first-come, first-served basis - FREE. Photo ID and proof of residency required. This event occurs every third Thursday of each month at the same time.

## The Cleveland Museum of Art presents MIX: Viva

Free virtual event celebrates Latin culture and features a digital dance fiesta

CLEVELAND, July 29, 2020: Virtual MIX at CMA returns Friday, August 7, 2020, from 8 to 9 p.m. Celebrate the diverse sights and sounds of Latin culture in honor of the current exhibition *A Graphic Revolution: Prints and Drawings in Latin America*.

DJ Cause&Effect will spin contemporary and classic Latin hits (salsa, bachata, merengue and reggaeton). Texas-based artist Michael Menchaca, whose work is on view in *A Graphic Revolution*, presents a selection of original party visuals. Menchaca's video art combines imagery from video games with ancient Maya texts to explore Latin identities in a contemporary landscape. The event also features salsa and Afro-Caribbean dance basics



with dance group *Caribe Conexión*. The night begins with an original poetic response to artist Belkis Ayón's print *I Always Return*, on view in the exhibition, by actor-poet Andrew Aaron Valdez, host of *Voces Fuertes Open Mic*, *Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center*.

Get ready for the event with a virtual MIX: Viva kit featuring a Spotify playlist created by DJ Cause&Effect, a list of local Latinx-owned restaurants, instructional dance videos from *Caribe Conexión*, artist bios and downloadable Zoom backgrounds.

Share your photos of your MIX vibe using

#MIXatCMA and #museumfromhome.

**How to Join MIX: Viva: Zoom (with "dance cam"):** Join the party through Zoom for a chance to be featured in a live "dance cam" that will spontaneously occur throughout the hour. A link to join will be posted to [cma.org/mix](http://cma.org/mix) or on the museum's Facebook page. You can also send an email (subject line: "MIX: Viva") to [mix@clevelandart.org](mailto:mix@clevelandart.org) to receive a link in your inbox.

**Facebook:** Watch live on the CMA's Facebook page from your smartphone, iPad or computer.

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**Early Head Start:** Early Head Start is a comprehensive program for income eligible pregnant mothers and/or infants and toddlers through age three. Center Based and Home Based options are available.

**Head Start Preschool:** This free comprehensive educational program is available for income eligible children ages 3-5. It offers health, educational, and family social services, including support for children with disabilities. Classrooms are located in Lorain, Elyria, Oberlin, LaGrange, and Wellington. Home Based options are also available.

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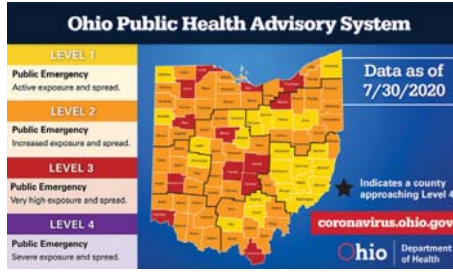


# OHIO COVID-19 Update: Liquor Sale and On-Premises Consumption Limits, Mass Gathering Order, Updated Risk Levels

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system/>

COLUMBUS, July 30, 2020: Governor Mike DeWine today provided the following updates on Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**UPDATE COUNTY RISK LEVELS:** Governor DeWine released this week's new Ohio Public Health Advisory System map.



"The good news is that more people are wearing masks in our urban counties and we are seeing the spread slow because of that," said DeWine. "The bad news is that Ohio's more rural counties are turning orange with significantly more spread taking place. I will again urge those who live in rural counties to wear masks while in public."

**Remaining at Level 3:**

*Allen, Cuyahoga, Erie, Fairfield, Franklin, Hamilton, Licking, Lucas, Henry, Lawrence, Marion, Medina, Montgomery.*

**Downgraded from Level 3 to Level 2:**

*Clark, Defiance, Hardin, Athens, Clermont, Delta-ware, Pickaway, Scioto, Union.*

**Downgraded from Level 3 to Level 1: Richland.**

*There are no counties on Ohio's Watch List.*

Detailed data on all 88 counties are now available on the Ohio Public Health Advisory System's website. The system was developed to provide local health departments, community leaders, and the public with data and information on the severity of the COVID-19 spread in the counties in which they live. The system consists of four levels with specific risk-level guidelines. Each level is calculated with data gathered on seven public health indicators.

**ALCOHOL SALE AND ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION LIMITS**

DeWine announced today that he has asked the Ohio Liquor Control Commission to call an emergency meeting to consider enacting a statewide emergency rule to limit liquor sales at establishments that serve alcohol for on-site consumption.

The rule would prevent the sale of alcohol at these liquor-permitted establishments beginning at 10:00 p.m. each night. On-premises consumption must end by 11:00 p.m. Businesses may stay open, and establishments that sell

food can continue serving meals until closing.

DeWine requested the new administrative rule after seeing outbreaks associated with bars across Ohio including Toledo, Cleveland, and Columbus.

"The problem is, bars, by their nature, lend themselves to a revolving door of people in close contact, oftentimes indoors, with interactions between many different people," said DeWine. "While this may have been fine during normal times, these are not normal times. We must make a change to curb the social behaviors that will cause this virus to continue to spread."

Separately, Governor DeWine is also asking the commission to raise the number of liquor and mixed drinks permitted to be purchased for carryout with a meal from two drinks to three drinks.

The Ohio Liquor Control Commission will hold its emergency meeting tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. If the emergency administrative rule is approved, DeWine will sign an executive order making it effective tomorrow night.

**MASS GATHERING ORDER:** DeWine announced that Ohio will separate its mass gathering guidance into its own order. Mass gathering guidance was most recently referenced as part of other orders, and combining this information into a stand-alone order will allow citizens to easily find guidance on holding gatherings in a safe manner.

Mass gatherings in Ohio remain limited to 10 people.

"We have seen cases in recent weeks where outbreaks have been connected to informal social gatherings like birthday parties, neighborhood gatherings, graduation parties, weddings, funerals, and gatherings at people's homes," said DeWine.

"The fact remains that this virus spreads when someone with the virus comes in contact with others who don't yet have it. When we gather together with people outside our households, we increase the likelihood this virus can spread."

The order will still permit Ohioans to go to work,

worship, go to school, and acquire goods and services, however, this order will offer clear recommendations on safely holding gatherings.

- Gatherings at a household or family residence should be limited to close friends and family and are recommended to be 10 visitors or less.

- Residents in a red or purple county, as designated by the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, should limit hosting or attending gatherings of any size.

- Wear a mask at all times at gatherings and maintain physical distance.

- Use take out, outdoor dining, or indoor dining only when strict social distancing can be maintained.

- Take extra precautions if you go to bars or nightclubs, where use of masks typically is inconsistent and drinking alcohol can lead to less social distancing.
- Protect anyone with serious medical conditions at home by social distancing at home, wearing a mask, and using high levels of personal hygiene.
- High-risk individuals should take extra precautions to limit the number of people they interact with.
- Make the group of people you interact with most often as small as possible and make sure that they are taking appropriate COVID-19 precautions – even if you are just gathering with family friends or neighbors at your home.

**CURRENT COVID-19 DATA:** There are 89,626 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in Ohio and 3,442 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths. A total of 10,678 people have been hospitalized, including 2,534 admissions to intensive care units. In-depth data can be accessed by visiting coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Video of today's full update, including versions with foreign language translation, can be viewed on the Ohio Channel's YouTube page.

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

# COVID-19 TESTING LOCATIONS

**Toledo Health Department:**

- **RITE AID:** Drive-thru testing available at the 7225 Airport Highway; Time: Starting 6/4 testing hours will be 10-8 M-F and 10-5 on the Weekend; **Appointment: Must have an appointment.** Pre-screening and appointments can be set up at [www.riteaid.com](http://www.riteaid.com) For Questions: (419) 866-8943; Cost: Free
- **WALMART ON CENTRAL:** Drive-thru testing available at the Walmart Supercenter at 5821 Central Ave, Toledo; **Time:** Testing is available M-W-F from 7 am – 9 am; **Appointment: Must have an appointment.** Pre-screening and appointments can be set up at [www.MyQuestCOVIDTest.com](http://www.MyQuestCOVIDTest.com) For Questions: (866) 697-8378; Cost: Free
- **LABCORP:** Anti-body testing available at 1565 S. Byrne Rd Suite 105, Toledo; **Time:** Testing available Monday-Friday from 7:30 am – 4 pm **Appointment: Order Required, No Appointment Needed.**

**How Labcorp Works (419-381-1300); Individuals without an order may have one created at Labcorp COVID-19 Antibody Testing; Cost: \$10 if order is purchased from Labcorp website.**

- **NHA: NEXUS HEALTHCARE CENTER:** Drive-thru and walk-up testing available at the Nexus Healthcare Center at 1415 Jefferson Ave; **Time:** Beginning 4/27; **Appointment: Must have an appointment.** Pre-screening and appointments can be set up by calling 419-214-5700; Cost: Free
- **NHA: NAVARRE PARK FAMILY CARE CENTER:** Drive-thru and walk-up testing available at the Navarre Park Family Care Center at 1020 Varland Ave (Spanish Speakers Available); **Appointment: Must have an appointment.** Pre-screening and appointments can be set up by calling 419-214-5700; Cost: Free
- **CVS:** Drive-thru testing available at the CVS Pharmacy at 2104 S. Byrne Road, Toledo;

**Time:** Testing is available M-F from 9 am – 6 pm, on Sat 9 am – 5 pm, and on Sun 10 am – 5 pm; **Appointment: Must have an appointment.** Pre-screening and appointments can be set up at [www.CVS.com](http://www.CVS.com) For Questions: 419-389-9112 **Cost:** Free

- **Health Partners of Western Ohio:** Drive-thru and walk-up Drive-thru testing available at the Old West End Site (former Girl Scout Building) at 2244 Collingwood Blvd Toledo; **Time:** Testing is available M-F from 8:15 am – 4 pm (All Ages); **Appointment: Must have an appointment.** Pre-screening and appointments can be set up by calling 567-318-3900; **Cost:** Free
- **NEW LOCATION- Toledo Family Pharmacy:** Drive-thru testing available at 324 Main Street, Toledo; **Time:** Testing is available M/TR: 10am -1 pm, W/F: 1 pm-6 pm, Sat : 11 am-3 pm; **Appointment: Must have an appointment;** Visit [DoINeedACOVID19test.com](http://DoINeedACOVID19test.com) or call 800-635-8611 to schedule an appointment; **Cost:** Free

**Testing locations for Cleveland:**

- **Cleveland Clinic - Main campus,** 9500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland. Drive-thru. • **Walgreens,** 4281 W. 130th St., Cleveland; drive-thru, 9am to 5pm.

*Ohio Dept of Health: If you have questions regarding Coronavirus/COVID-19 call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).*

**Michigan Dept of Human and Health Services**

**Questions About COVID-19? Call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136.** Email [COVID19@michigan.gov](mailto:COVID19@michigan.gov). **Don't Bring COVID-19 Home. Get Tested Today At No Cost.** Are you or is someone close to you sick or has symptoms? Do you work outside the home? You should get tested for coronavirus. There are many locations where you can get tested at no charge to you. Call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136, press 1.

**Testing sites in Detroit:**

- **CVS Pharmacy at**

**Wayne County Community College;** Drive-thru, 1001 W Fort St, Detroit, MI 48226; (313) 412-2160; Appointment Required Features

- No-cost
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- Tests uninsured individuals Guidelines
- Insurance accepted.
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- Tests some asymptomatic depending on risk and occupation.
- **Health Centers Detroit Medical Group** FQHC, 7633 E. Jefferson Ave., Suite 340, Detroit, MI 48214; (313) 822-9801 Appointment Required **Hours:** Mo,Tu,We,Th,Fr – 08:30AM-05:00PM **Features**

- Tests people without symptoms (asymptomatic)
- No doctor's order needed
- Tests uninsured individuals Guidelines
- Insurance accepted.
- Please call the site to schedule a testing appointment.

**Grand Rapids, MI**

- **AFC Urgent Care Grand Rapids TeleCare:** In an effort to minimize the spread of infection, we are now able to provide you with an opportunity to hold a telemedicine video visit with one of our providers. This will allow our providers to facilitate health care virtually without an in-person visit. TeleCare will be available from 8:00am to 8:00pm, 7 days a week. Patients requiring further care will be directed to our clinic or other appropriate health resources, as needed. Most insurance companies have agreed to cover the telemedicine visits for the cost of your typical copay. For those patients who do not have insurance coverage, we are offering the telemedicine visit for \$65.

- **AFC URGENT CARE GRAND RAPIDS**

**Appointment is Required for COVID Testing.** PHONE: 616-288-2980; 1740 28th Street SE Grand Rapids, MI 49508

- **CVS:** Drug store - Grand Rapids, MI - (616) 514-5602; COVID-19 testing center
- Appointment required
- Referral not required
- Tests limited to certain patients
- Drive-through



## Fair Housing Center Offering Landlord-Tenant Mediation

By La Prensa Staff

TOLEDO, August 1, 2020: *The Fair Housing Center* is doing its part to ensure no one loses housing due to economic hardships brought on by the *coronavirus epidemic*. The agency launched a free mediation service in May to settle disputes between landlords and tenants out of court.

The need for such a service has grown in recent years, but the launch during *COVID-19* came at a crucial time for many tenants facing job loss, a delay in unemployment benefits, and economic disaster that could lead to homelessness. Many local governments instituted moratoriums on evictions, but many of those are only temporary fixes and could end, leaving many in the lurch.

"We deal primarily in the realm of housing discrimination cases—civil rights cases where people are either being denied housing or being treated unfairly because of their protected class," said

*Sarah Jenkins*, director of public policy and community engagement for the *Fair Housing Center*. "I think we are recognized as a community resource, so people reach out to us for a lot of different housing needs and housing issues."

That includes landlord-tenant disputes. The agency receives hundreds of such calls every year, which have to be referred elsewhere, such as Legal Aid—

and can end up in housing court. The free mediation service serves as a gap-filler and can keep a lot of those cases from plugging up the court system. Those issues are commonly when a landlord refuses to return a security deposit or fails to fix a sink, furnace, or some other repair.

"Our call volume has increased tremendously over the last few months. It's very, very clear that there's a lot of critical housing issues going on," said Ms. Jenkins. "With eviction moratoriums in place, so landlords were not able to evict people and you had a lot of tenants, because of job loss or other financial hardships, weren't able to pay their rent. So we were seeing things like 'self-help evictions,' where landlords take action to try to force somebody out, but not using the legal eviction process."

Those tactics include shutting off utilities, removing belongings, changing the locks, sudden rent increases, or imposing new fees or penalties landlords weren't charging before. Ms. Jenkins called them "troubling and predatory practices resulting from the frustration of landlords not being able to file an eviction and having difficulty collecting rent."

But there are also complaint calls where tenants find themselves in "very vulnerable and distressing situations," such as sexual

harassment, according to Ms. Jenkins, where female tenants have been asked for sexual favors in lieu of rent.

"Some of these women are low income or have children," she said. So the threat of having their housing taken away is a very real threat. Those kinds of situations can put somebody in a very difficult spot."

"What we're talking about is issues that arise before people get to court—before an eviction is filed, before rent is put in escrow," explained Ms. Jenkins. "These are common issues that hopefully can be resolved and maybe prevent the parties from having to go to court."

*Lucas County Commissioners* gave the program \$140,000 in startup funds and an anonymous donor chipped in another \$50,000. The Fair Housing Center hired two mediators to directly begin handling cases without a need for referral.

"Nationally, you have a housing crisis going on right now, because you have a lot of the eviction moratoriums and other protections put in place are starting to be lifted, if they haven't already. Yet people are still struggling financially," said Ms. Jenkins. "So, we're definitely facing a situation where people might be evicted or displaced, at least. So, the hope of this

program is to try to prevent evictions by trying to resolve issues before it gets to court."

Many times, the issues boil down to a misunderstanding, lack of communication, or a broken promise. A mediator can bring the two parties together, give them a chance to talk through their issues, and voluntarily reach some sort of compromise or work through a solution. Other benefits include its informal and confidential nature.

"The mediator is not there to impose some sort of solution on the parties. The mediator is there to help the two parties reach a solution on their own," said Ms. Jenkins. "It's not somebody telling them they have to do this. This lets both sides work out something that's agreeable."

There's no capacity at present for judges or magistrates to refer cases to the mediation program. All the work will be done pre-litigation, before attorneys



confusing and cumbersome. The escrow process also leaves those repair issues in limbo while the case works its way through court—which could involve an unsafe situation for a family.

"One of the benefits of mediation is you're not going to have that long, drawn-out process," said Ms. Jenkins. "We're going to be able to get you in quicker, get you a solution quicker. The issues can be resolved in a much timelier fashion. It's more cost-effective, too, because it's free."

There's an education component to the mediation program, informing tenants and landlords of their individual rights and responsibilities in that relationship—notice of eviction, security deposits, when the landlord can enter an apartment, among the more important issues.

More information can be obtained about the mediation program by calling the Fair Housing Center at 419.243.6163 or by downloading a brochure at the agency's website: <https://www.toledofhc.org>.

## Many area school districts are delaying the new school year, with Online at Home learning

(Continued from Page 1)

would still receive art, music, and physical education, but on a trimester basis.

A green light status indicates school is in full session, as normal. A virtual learning option would remain in place for those who prefer to continue to utilize it.

Families have the option to request virtual learning for the entire first semester, regardless of the status TPS is operating. The deadline for online learning opt-in is Saturday, Aug. 8.

TPS administrators plan to meet individually with every family before the start of the academic year. Those meetings are expected to occur between Aug. 14 and Labor Day weekend.

Many of the eight largest urban Ohio school districts

are employing similar tactics to start the new academic year. *Cleveland Metropolitan Schools*, for example, was the first to announce a virtual learning option, at least for the first nine weeks. Many of the Ohio 8, as they are known, are re-evaluating their original return plans. TPS had initially announced a hybrid learning model, which currently mirrors the "yellow-light" status.

Many of Ohio's school districts have yet to announce formal return to school plans, as their administrators continue to evaluate health advisories. The *Toledo-Lucas County Health Dept.* is set to announce precautionary guidance, which many local school districts plan to use to finalize their academic year plans. Most suburban school districts are

set to return the week of Aug. 17.

During a recent statewide coronavirus briefing, *Lt. Governor Jon Husted* announced that help was on the way for districts needing technology and broadband access. The financial aid is coming in the form of \$50 million in matching grants, which would help schools get what they need in additional wi-fi access and digital devices to loan to students.

Parents can submit questions via email at [questions@tps.org](mailto:questions@tps.org). District administrators plan to provide updates via social media and online at the "Responsible Readiness" page on the district website, [www.tps.org](http://www.tps.org).





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# La Prensa Archives



Photo from Mexican Mutual Society's 2012 Cinco de Mayo Fiesta in Lorain, OH

**NEXT WEEK IN LA PRENSA:** Sociedad Mutualista Mexicana realizó ceremonia virtual de entrega de becas

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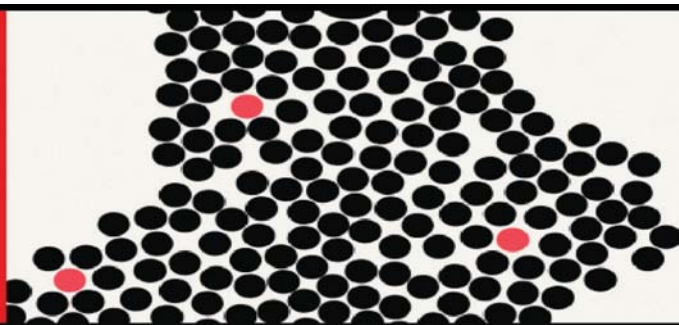
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### Anxious about the coronavirus?



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### To reach our Crisis Counselors, text **4Hope** to **741741**.

CRISIS TEXT LINE |

