

# CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2020

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## **GOVERNOR WHITMER AUTHORIZES GYMS, POOLS AND FITNESS CENTERS TO OPEN; ORDERS ATHLETES TO MASK-UP**

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced a series of new executive orders over the past two weeks to open gyms, pools, fitness centers, bowling alleys, roller rinks and ice rinks and paves the way for youth sports to continue in the state with restrictions.

Whitmer also extended the state of emergency for Michigan through October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Executive Order 2020-175, opened and outlined safety measures for gyms and indoor pools including requiring everyone at gyms to wear masks at all times and maintain six feet social distance from others. Swimmers are not required to wear masks.

In addition, gyms, fitness centers, recreation centers, bowling alleys, roller rinks and ice arenas are required to mandate face coverings at all times (except while swimming) and limit capacity to 25 percent of occupancy size. They must also keep records of patron name and contact information, sanitize facilities and increase outdoor air circulation.

With Executive Order 2020-176, Whitmer partially opened bowling alleys, roller rinks and ice rinks for hosting organized sports, including “competitive athletic activity requiring skill or physical prowess and organized by an institution or association that sets and enforces rules to ensure the physical health and safety of all participants.”

Executive Order 2020-176 also allows for youth sports, however, including guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services saying that contact sports like football and wrestling “should be avoided at this time.” The Michigan High School Athletic Association, however, quickly announced that football would resume this fall.

For youth sports, restrictions include limited spectators with only two guests per athlete allowed at indoor events, and outdoor events limited to two guests per athlete or a total of 100 people including athletes, coaches and staff.

Executive Order 2020-180, issued this week, clarifies the facial covering requirements for youth sports stating that athletes must wear masks or remain six feet of distance from other participants “except for occasional and fleeting moments.” Swimming is the only straight exception, although not listed specifically, other sports exempt from the facial covering requirements could include sports like tennis, cross country and golf. The order does say, “For example, an athlete participating in a

football, soccer or volleyball game would not be able to consistently maintain six feet of distance, and therefore would need to wear a facial covering.”

Still waiting for the word from Whitmer on when they can open are businesses such as movie theaters, charitable gaming, amusement parks, bingo halls, indoor climbing facilities, indoor dance areas, trampoline parks, waterparks and carnival/amusement rides. Funeral homes are also asking Whitmer to rescind the current 10-person limit on all indoor gatherings.

### **OUTDOOR NURSING HOME VISITS TO BE ALLOWED NEXT WEEK**

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has issued an order allowing nursing homes to allow outdoor visits starting next Tuesday. The order will affect long-term care facilities including nursing homes, independent living facilities, assisted living facilities, homes for the aged, adult foster care facilities, hospice facilities and substance abuse disorder residential facilities where visitors had been severely restricted or barred to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Under the new order, visitors will be required to make appointments, and facilities will be required to limit the number of visitors to two people or less. Facilities are not required to allow outdoor visits.

### **RECORD NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS REQUESTED**

Michigan’s Department of State has announced that voters in Michigan have already requested about 2.1 million absentee ballots, with about eight weeks to go until the November General Election. The previous record for requests was 2.06 million in the August primary election.

### **GOVERNOR WHITMER ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF FUTURES FOR FRONTLINERS PLAN**

Governor Whitmer provided further details on the Futures for Frontliners Plan this week, which makes about 625,000 essential workers in Michigan who don’t have a degree and who worked during the COVID-19 emergency, eligible for free college.

First announced in April, the Governor said this week that the free college is currently limited to community colleges and is not limited to those in medical fields, but includes workers in manufacturing, nursing homes, grocery stores, sanitation, retail, delivery and more. Eligible applicants must be a Michigan resident, worked in an essential industry at least part-time for 11 of the 13 weeks between April 1 and June 30, and have been required to work outside the home at least some of that time. To be eligible, you must also not have earned a previous associate or bachelor’s degree, not be in default for a federal student loan, and complete an application by 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31.

The \$24 million program is being funded by the Governor’s Education Emergency Relief Fund as part of the federal CARES Act.

### **MM&A Briefs**

#### **Michigan Becomes Battleground for Presidential Campaign Rallies**

President Donald Trump held a rally at an MBS airport hangar in Freeland yesterday with about 5,500 people in attendance. It was Trump’s first campaign rally in Michigan since May. Trump chose Saginaw County because it voted twice for former President Barak Obama, but switched to support Trump in 2016.

Presidential Candidate Joe Biden was also in Michigan on Wednesday of this week, making several stops including a United Auto Workers hall in Warren and the home of a steelworker in Detroit. Biden outlined his plan for a combination of tax hikes and incentives to bring manufacturing jobs to the U.S.

The latest poll in Michigan, by the Benenson Strategy Group/GS Strategy Group for Aug. 28 through Sept. 8, 2020, shows Biden with 7-point lead, 50% to 43% among likely voters.

### **Snyder Backs Biden**

Michigan's former Republican Governor Rick Snyder penned a USA Today column last week in support of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden in the 2020 election. Snyder had never endorsed Trump, but rarely discussed the 2016 presidential election which happened while he was still in office. His recent USA Today column, however, clarified that while he still supports Republicans in other elections, he was supporting Biden for president. Snyder also criticized Trump's tax and foreign policies, and his inability to unify a divided nation.

### **Calendar of Important Events**

- Sept. 13      Rep. Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills) Fundraiser**  
Location: 3 p.m., 21031 Eastfarm Lane Court, Farmington Hills
- Sept. 14      Sen. Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) Compete Michigan PAC 2 Fundraiser**  
Location: 10 a.m., Country Club of Jackson, 3135 Horton Road, Jackson
- Sept. 15      Rep. Julie Alexander (R-Hanover) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Governor's Room, Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Mark Huizenga (R-Walker) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Lambert & Company, 114 West Allegan St., Lansing
- Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City) PAC Fundraiser**  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Rachel Hood (D-Grand Rapids) Fundraiser**  
Location: 4:30 p.m., Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
- Rep. Sarah Lightner (R-Springport) PAC Fundraiser**  
Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. John Chirkun (D-Roseville) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7 p.m., Virtual
- Sept. 16      Michigan Children's Trust Fund Pam Posthumus Signature Auction Event**  
Location: Virtual 7:00 pm – visit [cffauction.givesmart.com](http://cffauction.givesmart.com) for more details
- 104th House District candidate John Roth (R) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**71st House District candidate Gina Johnsen (R) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7:30 a.m. Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Sen. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan) PAC Fundraiser**  
Location: 8 a.m., Lambert & Co, 114 West Allegan St., Lansing

**Rep. Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills) PAC Fundraiser**  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Virtual

**47th House District Candidate Bob Bezotte (R) Fundraiser**  
Location: 4 p.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Sen. Jim Stamas (R-Midland) PAC Fundraiser**  
Location: 5:30 p.m., The Patio at Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing

**Sept. 17 Rep. Brian Elder (D-Bay City) “No-Show Fundraiser”**

**Rep. Jason Wentworth (R-Clare) PAC Fundraiser**  
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Rep. Triston Cole (R-Mancelona) PAC Fundraiser**  
Location: 8 a.m., Lambert, 114 West Allegan St., Lansing

**Sen. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) PAC Fundraiser**  
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Sept. 17 Rep. Annette Glenn (R-Midland) Fundraiser**  
Location: 6:30 p.m., Home of Michelle and Commissioner Mark Bone  
3644 Coyote Ridge Circle, Midland

**Sept. 18 Rep. Bronna Kahle (R-Adrian) Fundraiser**  
Location: Devil's Lake Golf Course, 14600 U.S. 223, Manitou Beach.

**Rep. Terry Sabo (D-Muskegon) Fundraiser**  
Location: 12 p.m., Lincoln Golf Club, 4907 Whitehall Road, Muskegon

**Sept. 19 Sen. Jon Bumstead (R-Newaygo) Fundraiser**  
Location: 6 p.m., Yoberosa, 2100 Groesbeck Ave., Hesperia

**Sept. 21 Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) Fundraiser**  
**Location: 5:30 p.m., Location with RSVP**

**Rep. Mari Manoogian (D-Birmingham) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7 p.m., Virtual

**Sept. 22 Sen. Dan Lauwers (R-Brockway) PAC Fundraiser**  
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Rep. Sheryl Kennedy (D-Davison) Fundraiser**

Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Rep. Karen Whitsett (D-Detroit) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Governors Room, Karoub Associates, Lansing

**70th House District candidate Pat Outman (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 4:30 p.m. Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Sept. 23**

**Rep. Gary Eisen (R-Saint Clair Twp.) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association, Lansing

**Rep. Kyra Bolden (D-Southfield) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Sen. Peter MacGregor (R-Macomb Twp.) PAC Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Lambert & Co., 114 West Allegan St., Lansing

**Rep. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) PAC Fundraiser**

Location: 9 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Rep. Ryan Berman (R-Commerce Twp.) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Michigan State University Institute for Public Policy and Social Research Fall Forum on criminal justice and police training**

Location: 12 p.m., Virtual

**Rep. Joe Tate (D-Detroit) PAC Fundraiser**

Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Sept. 24**

**Rep. Ben Frederick (R-Owosso) PAC Fundraiser**

Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**73rd House District candidate Bryan Posthumus (R) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Eden Rock, 205 South Washington Sq., Lansing

**Rep. Gary Howell (R-North Branch) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Sen. Kim LaSata (R-Bainbridge Twp.) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association, Lansing

**Rep. Beau LaFave (R-Iron Mountain) Fundraiser**

Location: 6 p.m., Zappala home, W3110 East Labelle Road 38, Powers