

Thank you to Midwest Strategy Group, our lobbying firm, and specifically to our lobbyist, Mike Krombeen, for keeping us updated on all relevant information. The following is from their most recent release as well as from the April 9, 2020 update from Governor Whitmer.

The Stay Home, Stay Safe is extended to April 30, 2020. In addition, the State of Emergency has also been extended to April 30th, which coincides with the federal government's recommendation for social distancing.

The Senate Majority Leader has appointed a new bipartisan task force to make recommendations to the Governor on safely re-opening business activity around the state. They are expected to make recommendations to the Governor by April 17.

The CDC is now recommending that everyone wear cloth face masks in public settings, such as grocery stores, and leave the surgical masks or N-95 respirators for health care workers and first responders.

Michigan is cracking down on those who violate state orders to maintain social distance, stay-at-home and other steps to reverse the spread of the potentially deadly coronavirus. Violators may be fined \$1,000 and business licenses may be jeopardized. Prosecutors may also consider criminal penalties.

The non-partisan Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency has prepared a policy memo that helps explain the most recent federal stimulus and allocation of funding to Michigan. It can be accessed here: [Senate Fiscal Agency Memo March 31, 2020](#)

Unemployment claims continue to grow at an unprecedented rate. They are 5,000% higher than they were in February, 2020. The UIA has extended their hours and increased their staff. According to Bridge Magazine, the UIA typically has 130 employees. As of March 30, there were 300 staff members answering calls, and they estimate their staff to be at 500 by the end of the week.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans are administered and approved by the US Small Business Administration. For details and an application, follow this link [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\)](#)

During her news briefing on April 6, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer discussed the reason for the delay in offering unemployment benefits to 1099, self-employed and independent contractors. She explained that the state government is still waiting on the U.S. Department of Labor to give rules and authorization to pay. As of April 9, the rules and authorizations have not been issued.