

## LES CHENEAUX SUMMARY – April 1, 2020

Mark Clymer, Clark Twp Supervisor

The township is running a skeleton crew – one person in each of the three elected offices -- so there is ongoing continuity that maintains township functions.

There has only been one case in the county (mainland), so still early in the curve. This case was last Tuesday and they are at the west end of Mackinac County.

We are working with emergency management & health department agencies, but most of the focus so far is at the federal, state and county levels, at the exclusion of townships. That is changing now. Townships have not encouraged here to create their own emergency plans, and so we will be in the process of creating one over the summer as the COVID-19 emergency unfolds & unwinds.

Our local community foundation is willing to fund the hiring of someone to focus on re-attracting and re-integrating seasonal people. Local organizations such as our Islands Association will also be involved in this public safety program.

Currently, the grocery and other services are not yet fully prepared to meet the needs of quarantined people. We don't feel comfortable mandating returning residents to quarantine without having access to grocery or pharmacy delivery, which in our case will be in private boats by volunteers.

I am personally setting up a list of alternative medical interventions that people can use preventatively and to minimize the impact. Anyone interested getting a copy or sharing ideas may contact me privately.

Grocery, hardware and pharmacy are open. Two of five restaurants are open & one has added delivery.

I'm working with War Memorial Hospital's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to get the word out to seasonal residents to follow CDC protocols, and the Governor's *Stay in Place* order. This morning she shared a couple of policy statements from Grant Traverse County, & Traverse City, that I will paste at the end of this note

I have made contact with both local Native American Communities. I am working collaboratively with one to share preventative protocols and antiviral herbal formulations, and I am hopeful that the traditional medicine program of the other Tribe will be willing to look past their political limitations and help in supporting COVID-19 prevention measures that individuals can utilize.

UPDATE: I spoke with our County Emergency Manager this morning, and he was able to clarify the situation for returning community members and tourists during April.

1. The Governor's Executive Orders include No. 2020-21: ***Temporary requirement to suspend activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life***, & along with Health Dept directives, are being clearly interpreted as allowing for no tourist activity during April whatsoever.

- a. Unless people are returning to their place of residence out of necessity and have nowhere else to go, they are in violation of MCL 333.2251, Article 1, and subject to a \$1000 fine!
  - i. The “shelter in place” order is intended to curb the spread of COVID-19, and the intent is for people to stay where they are
  - ii. Traveling involves pumping gas, using restrooms, and obtaining groceries, etc. Even traveling with a camper, all Michigan State parks are closed to overnight visitors
  - iii. One marina in the State has already been given a cease & desist order for prepping boats in anticipation of returning tourists
  - iv. Opening cottages is a direct violation, and encourages others to do likewise
  - v. Local plumbers and caretakers are being advised by the State that their licenses are in jeopardy for doing so
  - vi. In summary, anyone leaving their residence is potentially putting others at risk & extending the time needed for the viral cycle to pass
  - vii. Those returning legitimately will be expected to produce written proof to law enforcement, and I am recommending marinas also get written proof & keep it on file if they are launching boats for summer residents
  - viii. I’ve instructed our public safety officer to begin issuing citations, with one written warning, followed by a citation with the \$1000 fine if they return again
- b. Residents returning are subject to a 14 day quarantine
  - i. We are assembling volunteers to deliver groceries and meds to those returning legitimately
  - ii. Bring all necessities for a 2 week quarantine
  - iii. Stay out of area stores, gas stations, and pharmacies, etc.
  - iv. No socializing
  - v. For those returning without proof of residency, we can substantiate residency from where their property tax bill is mailed, or validate their homestead property tax exemption, in order to have proof for local businesses or law enforcement
- c. Grand Traverse Health Department Statement:
  - i. “The Grand Traverse County Health Department asks that visitors and residents coming to Grand Traverse County from other areas in Michigan and out of state remain in self-quarantine for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms or known exposure. The virus can spread even from individuals without any symptoms. This precaution will help slow the spread of the virus and save lives.”
- d. Statement from Jim Carruthers, Traverse City Mayor:
  - i. “If you should decide to come north, please be prepared to self-isolate. That means bring everything you need with you. No going out to the grocery or hardware store when you arrive. No calling a service worker to fix something. No socializing with your neighbors. We must flatten the curve by stopping the spread of this virus.”