



Michigan Fitness Club Association

Newsletter for March 2021

The MFCA's March focus has been to raise capacity from 30% to 50% and to obtain financial relief at the federal and state level for gyms and the fitness industry.

Critical Update

Effective March 2, 2021, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services continues to allow group fitness classes and has permitted gyms and group fitness centers to operate at 30% of capacity (formerly 25%), provided that 1) capacity is limited to 30% of fire marshal occupancy limits, 2) masks are required to be worn at all times and 3) members and employees must be 6 feet apart. The MDHHS directive is available [HERE](#).

Call With Governor's Office

On Friday March 12, the MFCA board had a call with members of Governor Whitmer's staff and specifically discussed 1) the actual data in Michigan showing that gyms are safe and not spreaders of Covid-19, 2) the challenges gyms and fitness studios are experiencing, and 3) the positive message lifting capacity to 50% would send to consumers. The Governor's team only comment was regarding the CDC study of the gym outbreak in Chicago and Hawaii where it has been shown that the two facilities were not following protocol and they happened last June and August when health clubs in Michigan were not even open. The MFCA agreed to resend the data regarding the rigorous air quality studies that have been conducted showing the complete lack of any Covid-19 after testing the air and surfaces of 30 gyms. We made it clear that we are beyond frustrated with the administration ignoring the visit to virus statistics, the air quality studies, and the fact that many MFCA health clubs are MIOSHA certified. The MFCA will continue to push Governor Whitmer's team regarding increasing capacity to 50%.

MFCA Media Round Table

On March 11th, the MFCA hosted a panel discussion open for attendance by Michigan's gym owners, managers and the media. The discussion focused on the data from Michigan, New York and other states indicating that gyms are safe and why we should be allowed to raise capacity to at least to 50%. The data clearly supports gyms being safe and given 46 other states have raised capacity to 50% or more, Michigan should do the same. Helpful links from the roundtable:

1. [Air Quality Testing at OH, MI Gyms Finds No Detectable SARS-CoV-2](#)
2. [The IHRSA Active and Safe Guidelines](#)
3. [Confluence of Preventable Factors Led to Outbreaks in Chicago, Hawaii](#)



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The discussion is available on [YouTube](#). Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#), and email suggested topics or issues that you would like to have covered in our monthly roundtables to info@mifit.org.

Visit to Virus Through February 2021 – Gyms Are Safe

The MFCA collects data on the number of Covid cases of our members and employees compared to gym visits and we share this information monthly with the Whitmer administration. As of February 28, 2021, we have tracked 9,119,889 visits and have only had 467 Covid cases reported, for a percentage infection rate of 0.0051%. This is in line with data collected by others nationally.

IHRSA also has a very useful contract tracing [graphic](#) also demonstrating that gyms are one of the safest places to be and are not spreaders of Covid-19.

Vaccine Rollout

Nationally, the US is now on a clip administering 4.5 million new doses a day (2.5 million vaccine doses on a rolling 7-day average). At this rate, it is [projected](#) by June 21, 70% of the population will be vaccinated. President Biden has [announced](#) that by May 1, all Americans over 12 years of age will be eligible to receive the vaccine. The target is to get life “closer to normal” by July 4—a true Independence Day!

Michigan is only using 78% of vaccines available. You may call your local pharmacy and if they have an extra vaccine at the end of the day, they may administer it rather than discard it.

As of today, just over 23% of Michigan’s population has received at least one vaccine and just over 11% are fully vaccinated. Michigan’s Covid-19 [Dashboard](#) gives statewide and county-level data that can be broken down by various demographics. The [New York Times](#) has an easy to use state and national map for tracking progress of the vaccine program. The MFCA board is optimistic that life may return to normal sooner than originally expected.

Michigan Tax Legislation

The Michigan House Tax Policy committee will be taking up a bill aimed at restoring tax parity between large corporations and smaller “pass-through” entities in their Wednesday meeting.



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House Bill 4288, sponsored by Committee Vice Chair Mark Tisdell, would provide an election for pass-through businesses to pay their state and local taxes at the entity level; an income exemption to ensure business owners are not subject to double taxation; and provide Michigan business owners with a credit for taxes paid to other states that have similar state and local tax parity reforms. Bills typically take two committee hearings before advancing to the floor, one for testimony only and another to conduct a vote, so don't expect the bill to advance out of committee this week. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association, Michigan Retailers Association, Michigan Realtors Association, and the Small Business Association of Michigan all support the bill, among many other business organizations.

Federal Legislation Supporting Gyms and Fitness Studios

The bipartisan sponsored bill making its way through Congress, commonly called the [GYMS Act](#), would allocate \$30 billion in grants exclusively for the American fitness industry.

Support for the Act continues to build with the bill now having 62 co-sponsors from both parties. You can check progress of the Act [here](#). Please encourage other gym owners, employees and members to write to their Congressional representatives and support the GYMS Act. IHRSA has made it easy using its [ONE CLICK](#) campaign tool.

On behalf of every gym and fitness studio in Michigan, the MFCA board has reached out to the Michigan congressional house and senate delegations and asked them to co-sponsor and support the GYMS Act.

Share these 1-click campaigns with your club members and other fitness professionals.

- Industry Professional Grassroots Link: <https://ihrsa.quorum.us/campaign/gymsact>
- Consumer Grassroots Link: <https://ihrsa.quorum.us/campaign/saveourgyms>

Talk to Us

Gym owners, manager and employees can join our private [Facebook](#) group and ask questions, comment and share information. If you have questions, concerns or just want to talk, reach out to the MFCA by email (info@mifit.org) or phone (248) 938-4228 or attend one of our webinars.

[Join the MFCA.](#)