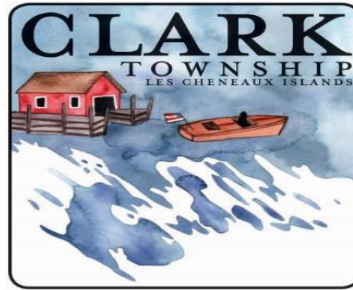


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LES CHENEaux COVID-19 STATEMENT FOR RETURNING RESIDENTS & VISITORS Clark Township Board - Updated May 4, 2020

The Clark Twp. Board of Trustees is encouraging seasonal residents, guests, tourists, and those traveling through the area to consider the challenges to the community in returning to the Les Cheneaux Islands while the State of Michigan is under the *Stay Home & Be Safe Order*.

The Governor's newest Executive Order (No. 2020-70) encourages all individuals currently living within the State of Michigan to stay at home or at their place of residence, with certain exceptions necessary to sustain or protect life, through May 15, 2020. One of those exceptions allows individuals to return to a home or place of residence from inside *or* outside this state.

Please understand that the logistics of residents returning during this time, as well as the limited availability of resources, equipment, suppliers, and others that are normally available to support returning residents, not to mention potential health risks from interactions. And while the Governor's current order and the previous orders that it replaced (Order No. 2020-21, 42, & 59) provide some guidance regarding what actions are deemed "essential", many are unclear what activities can be performed. It is not the Township's position to interpret what actions and work is prohibited or allowed under this order as they are issued by the Governor. That being said, many residents and business owners have requested our help in reaching out to our residents that normally return to the area around this time in order to convey some of the challenges that they, and the community may face as we adapt to both the COVID-19 Virus, and the Governor's Executives Orders that were meant to "flatten the curve" so hospitals could have adequate resources available to support COVID-19 patients.

The township is currently operating with one person in each of the three elected offices to maintain ongoing continuity in upholding township functions. Clark Twp. Volunteer Fire, EMS, and Public Safety services are staying abreast of unfolding COVID-19 issues, and limited medical supplies have been made available to local emergency managers. Chippewa County has released a Press Release informing returning residents that War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan is the only hospital in the Eastern Upper Peninsula with an intensive care unit, which was limited to six beds at the onset of the COVID-19 infestation.

Executive Order 2020-70 will relax stay at home requirements for some "resumed activities" on May 7th. These include: landscaping, groundskeepers, moving or storage operations, and "work that is traditionally and primarily performed outdoors." Additionally, the construction industry and "similar workers" can return to work.

There are a number of restrictions on these businesses that are spelled out in EO 2020-70, Section 11. Again, the Township is not in a position to declare what work falls into this category, however, it is generally regarded as a go ahead for licensed contractors, electricians, plumbers, and HVAC businesses, along with caretakers, dock builders, and to a limited extent marinas. Please check directly with individual businesses to verify if they are open and if the services you may want are available – and when, as supply lines for many materials are limited.

Logistics of making summer residences operational and gaining access to those located on islands may prove slower than previous years. We have also been informed of closings that may affect travel to the area, specifically: hotels, public rest stops, and campgrounds for overnight visitors. The Michigan Dept of Natural Resources announced today that many State owned facilities will not open until June 10, including State owned marinas. Cedarville Harbor, and Hessel Marina are tentatively planning to open on May 15, yet this will depend on the availability of having the finger docks placed back in the water and other logistics. Local Township launch ramps are open now.

We ask returning residents to take time for extra planning and possible delays in obtaining local products and services. Further, we are joining our local health departments, hospitals, counties, municipalities and utility companies in recommending those residents returning home to the Les Cheneaux area remain in voluntary self-quarantine for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms or known exposure.

That means bringing everything you need to minimize both COVID-19 exposure and minimizing the utilization of local store inventories when you arrive. We hope that residents will take these precautions and that together we can help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and save lives.

For more information about COVID-19 in Michigan, please visit [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus). All of Governor Whitmer's Executive Orders can be found at:

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455-521682--,00.html