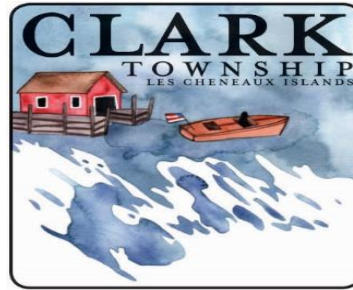


CLARK TOWNSHIP

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LES CHENEAUX COVID-19 STATEMENT FOR RETURNING RESIDENTS & VISITORS Clark Township Board, April 10, 2020

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

The Governor's Executive Order (No. 2020-42) requires 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 April 30, 2020. Although one of those exceptions allows individuals to "return to a home or place of residence from outside this state," it explicitly prohibits travel between two residences in this state after April 10, 2020.

Please understand that the logistics of residents returning during this time, as well as the limited availability of resources and imminent health risk, is of concern to many. And while the Governor's current order and the previous order that it replaced (Order No. 2020-21) 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. 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 difficulties that they, and the community may face in the event of an influx of residents.

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. 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 intensive care unit beds, which are limited.

According to Michigan.gov, "workers may [...] undertake projects that are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of a residence during the emergency, including projects immediately necessary to restore the habitability of a residence. Any non-emergency maintenance or improvements to residences are not permitted." Again, the Township is not in a position to declare what work falls into this category, however, the State has advised that the order must be construed broadly to prohibit in-person work that is not necessary to sustain or protect life.

Logistics of making summer residences operational and gaining access to those located on islands may prove difficult. Local plumbers and caretakers have informed us that they have been advised by the State that their licenses could be in jeopardy for opening cottages. Further, the State has made it clear that marinas, and other similar businesses and operations are not essential work. One Michigan marina was given a cease & desist order for prepping boats in anticipation of returning tourists. We have also been informed of closings that may affect travel to the area, specifically: hotels, public rest stops, and Michigan State Parks and campgrounds for overnight visitors.

Again, we ask returning residents to strongly consider whether traveling to the area at this time is essential. Further, we are joining our local health departments, hospitals, counties, municipalities and utility companies in asking those residents returning home to the Les Cheneaux area to remain in self-quarantine for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms or known exposure.

We ask that if you do come north while the Order is in effect, as well as after April 30, 2020, that you please be prepared to self-isolate. That means bring everything you need with you. We ask that you not go out to the grocery or hardware store when you arrive, or call service workers to fix something. Please refrain from socializing with your neighbors. We hope that residents will take these precautions and that together we can help slow the spread of the virus and save lives.

For more information about COVID-19 in Michigan, please visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.