

# The Jaffe Update

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## COVID-19 EMERGENCY ORDER Recreational Gatherings

Yesterday, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued another [Emergency Order](#) that takes effect Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:01 am until January 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 pm. The Order makes only a few changes from the last order, issued December 15<sup>th</sup> which prohibited most gatherings, limited indoor gatherings and imposed limits on outdoor venues. This is the Order that prohibits indoor dining at restaurants and most in-person high school classes. Note that “gathering” is defined as anywhere two or more persons from more than one household are in a shared space together.

This Order still allows workplace gatherings consistent with MIOSHA’s October 14th [Emergency Rules](#); and residential care facilities, subject to the [October 21 order](#) entitled “Requirements for Residential Facilities;” and outdoor dining where no more than 6 people are seated at a table and tables are spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart.

The primary changes to the prior Order include:

1. In person school is permitted all the way up to 12<sup>th</sup> grade;
2. Low and moderate recreational gatherings are allowed subject to certain requirements including a ban on the sales of food or drinks, distancing, and reduced venue density;
3. Indoor group fitness, exercise or non-contact sports are allowed also subject to certain requirements largely focusing on masking and distancing.

As currently constituted, indoor dining at restaurants would reopen on February 1<sup>st</sup> but past experience indicates that there will be new rules and that it will not be a return to unlimited operations before the pandemic.

We hope you found this information helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions.

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