

**COVID-19
SPECIAL EDITION**

CITY OF DETROIT

Councilman Scott Benson's NEWSLETTER

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL • DISTRICT 3

SPRING 2020



Councilman Scott Benson represents the 3rd District on the Detroit City Council and is Chairman of City Council's Public Health and Safety Standing Committee and has more than 20 years of community development experience on Detroit's east side.

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN SCOTT BENSON

Dear Third District Residents,

During these perilous times amid the COVID-19 pandemic, it is especially important that my office works to ensure all of our residents have access to the resources being offered by the City of Detroit. This newsletter includes information on critical resources like: food, grocery shopping hours for seniors, unemployment insurance, and our text service. While staff is not in the office, we continue to work from home and respond to all of your concerns and needs. Please do not hesitate to contact us, and if we don't answer immediately leave us a message.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Detroit City Councilman and please continue to comply with Governor Whitmer's Stay Home, Stay Safe executive order, and social distancing during this pandemic.

Safety Tips

COVID-19 PREVENTION TIPS

The Detroit Health Department is working to ensure the safety and well-being of residents, visitors, and animals in our care. Whether you're feeling sick or well, help slow the spread of COVID-19 by following these tips:

- 1 Stay home if you are sick
- 2 Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow when coughing or sneezing
- 3 Wash your hands frequently with warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds
- 4 Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- 5 If feeling ill, call your doctor immediately
- 6 Regularly clean commonly used surfaces and objects, like cellphones
- 7 Stay home unless you're leaving for work, to care for someone or pick up essential items like food and medicine
- 8 If you must go out to get groceries or medication, wear a mask
- 9 If you've been directed by a doctor to home-quarantine: separate yourself from others; use a mask or cloth to cover your nose and mouth; clean your bathroom and all items you touch
- 10 Wear a basic facial covering or mask to cover your nose and mouth when in public, at work, or home with someone who is sick



detroitmi.gov/coronavirus

This is a critical intervention to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. This is a mandatory

order. While this news may feel alarming, it is a necessary step to prevent a worsening situation. The patterns of the virus around the world, and in our own state, tell us that moving right now to maximize social distancing and restrict people from gathering is the best way to fight the virus and save lives.

This is a major change being taken to protect public health. Please be patient and kind to one another. Together, we will get through this, and our community's health will be protected.

Park Usage Social Distancing
DO's AND DON'Ts

DON'T	DO	
 Use playground equipment	 Bike, walk and get exercise	 Enjoy your time outside safely
 Play team or contact sports	 Keep a distance of six feet between yourself and others at all times	
 Pass by someone without six feet distance		

Resources

COVID-19 TESTING

City Offers Detroiters Needing COVID-19 Testing Access to Doctors and \$2 Rides

Detroiters can get COVID-19 testing at a drive-up location at the State Fairgrounds now through May 8. The testing site is the work of a coalition of the City, Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and Henry Ford Health System, DMC and Trinity Health. The testing is available to Wayne, Macomb and Oakland residents Monday-Saturday from 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

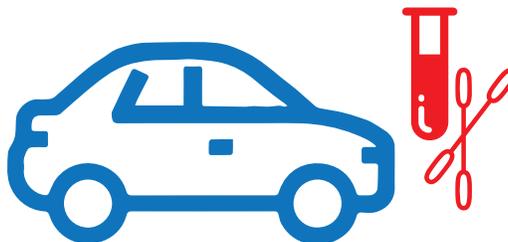
In order to be tested, patients need to first get a doctor's prescription and then either the doctor or the patient can call (313) 230-0505 for a testing appointment. The call center is open daily from 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

In addition, Detroiters with COVID-19 symptoms can get tested even if they don't have a primary care physician, health insurance, or a car. Detroit phy-

sician offices are now accepting new patients for Detroiters without insurance or a primary care physician.

Once a person has a doctor's prescription for the test and an appointment time, they can get a ride for \$2 to the State Fairgrounds in a safe, sanitary vehicle through IntelliRide. This service is available for Detroiters being picked up and dropped off at a Detroit residence.

For more information, go to www.detroitmi.gov/coronavirus.



Residency Has Its Privileges!

Don't Miss Out!

Join Councilman Benson's **District 3 text service!** You will receive up-to-date information as well as opportunities to win prizes.

Sign up by texting "**District3**" to **555888**.

Several Detroit Grocery Stores Adopt Senior Shopping Hours

Effort Led by Councilman Scott Benson and Department of Neighborhoods

Detroit seniors can now shop at a number of Detroit grocery stores during special hours, thanks in part to the efforts of City Councilmember Scott Benson and several City agencies – the Department of Neighborhoods, Health Department and Office of Contracting and Procurement.

The stores, mostly on Detroit's east side in District 3, have designated senior-only shopping hours to support and protect senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participating stores include:

Imperial Fresh Market

1940 E. 8 Mile Road • (313) 366-0670
8-9 a.m.

Imperial Fresh Market (Krown Market)

5800 Caniff Street • (313) 893-1414
8-9 a.m.

Joe Randazzo's Fruits & Vegetables

5240 E. Outer Drive • (313) 892-0093
6-7 a.m.

Farmer John Food Center

9731 Harper Avenue • (313) 921-0015
8-9 a.m.

7 Mile Foods Inc.

8139 E. 7 Mile Road • (313) 893-8888
8-9 a.m. (Thursday only)

New Merchant Food Center

2819 E. 7 Mile Road • (313) 368-2270
8-9 a.m.

Meijer

1301 W. 8 Mile Road • (313) 369-5200
7-8 a.m.
(Tuesday & Thursday)



Resources

Families Receive Food through Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Division of the General Services Department is providing meals for children at participating recreation centers. Parents and children may pick up multiple meals to suit their needs. Meals are offered, Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at these locations:

- **Adams Butzel Family Center**, 10500 Lyndon
- **Farwell Recreation Center**, 2711 Outer Dr E

These additional recreation centers will offer meal pick up on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

- **Crowell Recreation Center**, 16630 Lahser
- **Lasky Recreation Center**, 13200 Fenelon

In addition, the Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) is now serving meals for children at 17 schools across the city.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR HOMEOWNERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS

HOMEOWNERS

The United Community Housing Coalition has helpful information for low income homeowners and renters. Visit www.UCHCDetroit.org.



BUSINESS OWNERS

Grants are available for small business owners in the City of Detroit. Amounts range from \$2,500-\$10,000. To apply visit <http://www.degc.org/local-business-support-for-covid-19/>



Meals for Seniors

In addition, the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) is providing frozen meals for seniors ages 60 and up. Seniors can pick up five days worth of meals every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. at the following recreation centers:

- **Butzel Family Center**, 7737 Kercheval
- **Farwell Recreation Center**, 2711 E. Outer Dr .
- **Patton Community Center**, 2301 Woodmere
- **Joseph Walker Williams Center**, 8431 Rosa Parks Blvd.



For more information on food distribution, go to detroitmi.gov/food.

detroitmi.gov/coronavirus



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The 3rd District is on Social Media

Follow us on our social media outlets of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. You can find us at:

@Scottinthe3rd

Councilman Scott Benson

CouncilmanScottBenson



Resources

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR DETROITERS

New update!

Hey Detroit!

Good news. You might now be eligible for Unemployment Insurance even if you haven't worked in a while, have worked only part-time temporary jobs, or worked for yourself.

Under the Governor's expanded eligibility guidelines, self-employed, under-employed, and many others can start applying for UIA on Monday, April 13. Don't worry over whether you're eligible – JUST APPLY.

Applications open Monday, April 13 at www.michigan.gov/UIA

\$600 per week extra unemployment payments start in a week and run through 7/31/2020.

Watch for more info next week from the State of Michigan UIA, including updates on how this benefit coordinates with other public programs.



More info next week from the State of Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) and Detroit at Work.

**MICHIGAN
WORKS!**

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