

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
04/07/2020

CONTACT: Jennifer Tobey (574)238-0144, jtobey@elkhartcounty.com
Melanie Sizemore (574) 276-1197, msizemore@elkhartcounty.com

EXECUTIVE ORDERS FOR BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYEES

The intent of the Executive Order 20-18 is to ensure the maximum number of people self-isolate in their homes and residences to the maximum extent feasible, while also enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible.

If your business is still operating because you have deemed yourself essential, you must comply with the CDC guidelines. It is required, not recommended that you provide social-distancing on the lines. Your business must retool their formation should this not comply. You **MUST** also offer time for your staff to wash their hands and to clean frequently touched surfaces.

Please note that the Governor's Executive Order 20-18 states there is now enforcement behind the order. OSHA will take all available administrative and enforcement actions against businesses or entities failing to comply with workplace safety conditions.

The Governor has authorized enforcement authority through law enforcement, the Indiana State Department of Health, and the Local Health Departments. The penalty is up to and can include forced closure of the business, a class B misdemeanor, punishable up to 180 days incarceration and a fine of up to \$1,000.

As we have said many times and will continue to say, the best way to protect yourself from any respiratory illness, including COVID-19 is to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60% or higher alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice social distancing (no group functions such as book clubs, meetings, and or congregations of 10 or more)
- Stay home unless you need to go somewhere.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We will continue to provide updates as changes occur. Please follow our Facebook page at Elkhart County Health Department Health Education Division www.facebook.com/healtheducation.echd, www.elkhartcountyhealth.org, or go to the Indiana State Department of Health's website at www.isdh.in.gov/coronavirus for up-to-date information on COVID-19.

###