LES CHENEAUX COVID-19 STATEMENT FOR RETURNING RESIDENTS & VISITORS
Clark Township Board – Updated June 30, 2020

The Clark Twp. Board of Trustees encourages seasonal residents, guests, tourists, and those traveling through the area to act responsibly when returning to the Les Cheneaux Islands while “the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a disaster and emergency throughout the State of Michigan” (EO 2020-99).

The Governor’s newest Executive Order (No. 2020-115) moves the UP (Region 8) “to Stage 5 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan.” Most businesses “will be permitted to reopen, subject to strict workplace safeguards. Indoor social gatherings and organized events of up to 50 people will be allowed, as will outdoor social gatherings and organized events of up to 250 people.”

EO 2020-115 requires individuals to follow social distancing by “remaining at least six feet from people from outside the individual’s household to the extent feasible under the circumstances.” A “face covering” is also required “when in any enclosed public space”, with some exceptions such as when “seated at a restaurant or bar”.

Additionally, “Businesses and building owners, and those authorized to act on their behalf, are permitted to deny entry or access to any individual who refuses to comply with the rule in this subsection”.

Working remotely, when possible is still encouraged in EO 2020-115.

While some people consider compliance with these Executive Orders as a personal choice, we encourage respecting those around you when patronizing local businesses.

Please understand that the logistics of residents returning during this time may involve delays, such as the availability of resources, such as contractors, marinas, equipment, suppliers, and others that are normally available, not to mention potential health risks from interactions. It is not the Township’s position to interpret what actions and work is prohibited or allowed under these orders as they are issued by the Governor. That being said, many residents and business owners have requested our help in reaching out to returning residents and visitors as we adapt to both the COVID-19 Virus, and the Governor’s Executives Orders that were initially meant to “flatten the curve” so hospitals could have adequate resources available to support COVID-19 patients.
Logistics of making summer residences operational and gaining access to those located on islands may prove slower than previous years, although businesses are doing their best to keep up with demand.

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

The Township Hall, Community Center, and Marinas are currently open. Please wear a mask when entering Township facilities. Clark Twp. Volunteer Fire, EMS, and Public Safety services are staying abreast of unfolding COVID-19 issues. Chippewa County has 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.

Also, to minimize COVID-19 exposure, please follow guidelines posted at local businesses, such as wearing a mask & social distancing. We hope that everyone will take these precautions and that together we can help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

For more information about COVID-19 in Michigan, please visit 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