



Sarah Hunton, Senior Community Liaison
Cell (586) 804-1262 | huntons@oakgov.com

CONTACT: Dave Woodward (248) 296-5033

News Release

Oakland County Board leaders join Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha in support for Governor Whitmer's 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' Executive Order

Science tells us to save the most lives, we need to stay home

March 23, 2020, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI – Today, Oakland County Board of Commissioners leaders joined Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, MD MPH, to applaud Governor Gretchen Whitmer's new "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order to protect public health against the COVID-19 spread, minimize stress on our health care system and save lives.

The order, in effect for at least the next three weeks, requires Michigan residents to stay home except for essential purposes. It also directs all non-essential businesses to temporarily suspend in-person operations not essential to sustain and protect life.

"The time is now," Dr. Hanna-Attisha said. "There is active community spread of COVID-19 in Michigan, particularly in southeast Michigan. To preserve human life, public authorities must order citizens to stay at home. Science tells us to act with urgency to change the statistical trajectory of the COVID-19 virus. Every single time the virus is checked because we are at home, instead of spreading the virus in the community, it has the potential to save lives."

An Oakland County resident, Dr. Hanna-Attisha is a pediatrician, professor and public health expert.

“My healthcare colleagues are risking their lives preparing for the worst,” Dr. Hanna-Attisha said. “They are making arrangements for wills, advanced directives and guardianship. We need to do our part. For many of us, that simply means we must stay at home.”

“Business and workers are suffering in this crisis,” Dr. Hanna-Attisha continued. “But, there is no economic case against this science. The way to return to business normalcy is to stop the spread, and that means listening to the science. Business as usual will exacerbate and extend the crisis, and maximize human death and suffering.”

“We stand with the public health experts, and Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, and support the Governor’s ‘Stay Home, Stay Safe’ Executive Order,” said Board Chairman **David T. Woodward** (D-Royal Oak). “We believe this order is necessary to protect the most residents in Michigan and Oakland County. The longer we waited, the less effective it would be. Oakland County stands ready to support this effort to get through this together.”

Oakland County is among the counties with the most confirmed COVID-19 infections in Michigan, with likely many more that are unknown due to lack of widespread testing. Michigan has the fifth most confirmed cases in the nation. The rate of infection is expected to grow exponentially. As the numbers increase, the immediate strain on our hospital and health care system will continue to grow and potentially exceed capacity. This order is intended to slow the spread.

“When we look back at this moment, we need to be able to say we did all we could to slow the spread and reduce the strain on our health care system to save lives,” said Oakland County Board Vice Chairwoman **Marcia Gershenson** (D-Bloomfield Township). “With this order announced today, more lives will be saved.”

Chairman Woodward, Vice Chairwoman Gershenson and Dr. Hanna-Attisha recognize this tough decision and applaud Governor Whitmer for this order. They believe it is the necessary next step to address this pandemic and to help save lives.

“The science is conclusive,” said Woodward. “We know what needs to be done. We need to stay home!”

#