

January 06, 2021

Director Gordon:

We are writing today on behalf of Michigan's communities to urge that you take swift action pursuant to the recently signed PA 339 of 2020, and designate the municipal employees that keep our cities and villages in motion and ensure the safety of all residents as critical infrastructure employees.

Municipalities are responsible for operating and sustaining utilities, water/wastewater, road clearing, and 911 dispatch services. In many of our communities, the employees that facilitate these services do so in small, uniquely qualified or trained teams. While continuing to follow all COVID-19 safety protocols and procedures, cities and villages have been constrained under the original language of PA 238 of 2020 by the potential impact of a single COVID-19 exposure on critical municipal public health and public safety operations. The Michigan Municipal League worked closely with legislative leaders and the governor's office to include language in Senate Bill 1258 (now PA 339'20) during the Lame Duck period, to allow for the exemption of certain critical workers from the required quarantine period post-exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual at the discretion of the DHHS Director (section 5 (4)(i)).

Now that SB 1258 has been signed, it's imperative that you designate those municipal employees where the cessation of operations would cause serious harm or danger to public health or safety. These categories include employees working in water and wastewater treatment facilities, 911 dispatchers, and road-clearing and repair crews, among other similar municipal employees. Explicit guidance for local leaders to continue these necessary services will be of great assistance. During the winter season, Michiganders rely on safe drinking water, clear roads, and responsive emergency services to keep them safe. Please do not delay in taking this direction to ensure our residents have the critical services they can count on.

Thank you for your consideration.



Daniel P. Gilmartin  
Executive Director & CEO



Mayor William Wild, City of Westland  
President, MML Board of Trustees

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