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Joel R. Strasz
Public Health Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: All Media
From: Joel Strasz, Public Health Officer
Date: March 21, 2020
Re: **GUIDANCE FOR ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP SERVICES IN BAY COUNTY**

There are several reports in the media today regarding Governor Whitmer's decision to amend Executive Order 2020-11 that prohibits public assemblages of over 50 people in a variety of different settings including places of worship. That order is now amended that while capacity limitations still apply to places of worship, they will be exempt from the penalty.

As part of its efforts to provide guidance to local residents, the Bay County Health Department reminds local places of worship of its obligation to comply with the Executive Order. Additionally, these institutions should do all that is necessary to ensure social distancing of at least six feet for participants and employing proper hygienic and disinfection practices. Failure to do these interventions may put the health of participants, especially the elderly and persons with chronic conditions, at great risk and lead to further spread of the virus.

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, please follow these recommendations from the Center of Disease Control:

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
4. Avoid handshakes.
5. Avoid contact with people who are sick.
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- 7. IF YOU ARE SICK, STAY HOME.**

For the latest and most accurate information regarding the COVID-19 please go to the Bay County Health Department website at www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health and the Center for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.