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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2020

# PRESS RELEASE

## Branch County Daily COVID-19 Update for March 31, 2020

<i>Date/Type</i>	<b>Current Positive Cases - Michigan</b>	<b>Deaths - Michigan</b>	<b>Positive Cases - Branch County</b>	<b>Deaths - Branch County</b>
3/26/2020	2,856	60	2*	0
3/27/2020	3,657	92	4*	0
3/28/2020	4,650	111	4*	0
3/29/2020	5,486	132	7*	0
3/30/2020	6,498	184	8*	0
<i>Avg. Daily Change</i>	877	24	2*	0
<i>Change 29 -30</i>	1,012	52	1*	0

\*Lakeland Correctional Facility

We will all get through this together.

**Today we have some positive news** regarding the fight against COVID-19. In recent days, reports of accelerated testing speeds have increased. Abbott, which has part of its company in Sturgis, MI announced that the FDA has issued Emergency Use Authorization for its molecular test that can detect a positive coronavirus diagnosis in as little as five minutes and a negative result in 13 minutes. The ID NOW COVID-19 tests will be available next week, and Abbott expects to ramp up manufacturing to deliver 50,000 tests per day by [April 1](#).

As always, **if you want to help Branch County responders**, donations of medical supplies are welcome. We are seeking very particular items for donation, and the list can be found below:

- N95 Masks
- Surgical Masks
- Digital or Temporal Scan Thermometers
- Surgical Gowns
- Boxed Nitrile Gloves
- Safety Eye Shields or Wrap Around Safety Glasses
- Lysol Wipes (not Lysol Spray)

All items must be new original packaging in order to guarantee their sterility. At this time, we are not accepting any other items for donation. To offer donation send an email with pictures if available to [donations@countyofbranch.com](mailto:donations@countyofbranch.com). If your donation offer is accepted, we will reply with drop off information.

There have also been several updates from the State and Federal level regarding this crisis.

**On the federal level**, The President announced that the White House is extending its social distancing guidelines through Apr. 30, 2020, from an initial 15-day timeline when they were established on Mar. 16, 2020. They were set to expire Mar. 31, 2020. “The peak in death rate is likely to hit in two weeks,” the President said. “Nothing would be worse than declaring victory before the victory is won.”

**On the state level**, the Governor continues to encourage Michiganders help flatten the curve and slow the spread. The Governor has established a website where you can sign up to volunteer in the fight against COVID-19. They are especially in need of medical professionals. You can volunteer here: [www.michigan.gov/fightcovid-19](http://www.michigan.gov/fightcovid-19)

As always, **we remind Branch’s residents to stay home and stay safe**. With proper foresight and courage, we will all get through this together.



We will all get through this together.