

Subject **December 2020 MIACCA Newsletter**
From MIACCA <mjdsmith@miacca.org>
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Reply-To M.J. D'Smith <mjdsmith@miacca.org>
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Working hard to Protect, Promote & Educate our Profession
DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Edition Highlights

- **[MIACCA's Efforts on Bill, Which Would Allow Contractors Reasonable Work Experience Credit, Passes House of Regulatory and Reform Committee and is in the House of Ways and Means Committee](#)**
- **[MDHHS Rolls Out COVID-19 Exposure Alert App](#)**
- **[MDHHS New Order Resource Guide](#)**
- **[Governor Proposes \\$100 million COVID-19 Relief Plan](#)**
- **[Federated HR Question](#)**
- **[ACCA Postpones 2021 Conference](#)**
- **[Service Roundtable Contractor Success Day](#)**

Message from President Phil Forner

As we are heading into winter, your time, we know is even more valuable. I hope you are staying busy, healthy and safe. As the surge in COVID-19 elevates, it is important to utilize the resources that MIACCA has provided to keep yourself, employees and customers protected. All of our important resource posts about COVID-19 can be found at MIACCA.org under news and blog posts. If there is anything in particular you need assistance with, please contact our Executive Director, M.J. D'Smith and she will gladly help you find the information you are looking for, or guide you in the right direction. You may email M.J. at mjdsmith@miacca.org.

Although this holiday season will look a bit different than years past, and we may not get to be face to face with our friends and family, please note that by doing our part now, we can hope that the next holiday season is shared with everyone healthy and happy. Wishing you all a wonderful

holiday season.

Please continue to utilize these COVID-19 resources from our industry experts:

ACCA resources [here](#), Federated Insurance [here](#), NATE resources [here](#), ASHRAE resources [here](#)

As always stay safe and keep up the great work!



MIACCA's Efforts on Bill, Which Would Allow Contractors Reasonable Work Experience Credit, Passes House of Regulatory and Reform Committee and is in the House of Ways and Means Committee

[SB 827](#) was passed by Senate roll call on September 30th with 38 yeas and 0 nays. It was passed through the House Regulatory Reform Committee and is at the House of Ways and Means Committee..

This bill is important to the HVAC industry as it will continue the long standing safety practice of having employers attest to an applicant's mechanical work experience; and provide for a reasonable work experience credit for those who go to school to learn a skilled trade and successfully complete a recognized HVAC trade school, community college, or university program.

MIACCA encourages you to reach out to these House of Ways and Means Committee Members, in your district and let them know you support this bill and would like to see it passed into law by the end of this year.

[Brandt Iden](#) (R) Committee Chair, 61st District

[Jim Lilly](#) (R) Majority Vice-Chair, 89th District

[Eric Leutheuser](#) (R), 58th District

[Beth Griffin](#) (R), 66th District

[Roger Hauck](#) (R), 99th District

[Bronna Kahle](#) (R), 57th District

[Luke Meerman](#) (R), 88th District

[Rebekah Warren](#) (D) Minority Vice-Chair, 55th District

[Wendell Byrd](#) (D), 3rd District

[Kevin Hertel](#) (D), 18th District



MDHHS and DTMB Roll Out COVID-19 Exposure Alert App

LANSING, MICH. – As part of the state's continued efforts to slow the increasing spread of COVID-19, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) yesterday announced the statewide rollout of the COVID-19 exposure notification app [MI COVID Alert](#).

The anonymous, no cost and voluntary app, [piloted in Ingham County and on the campus of Michigan State University last month](#), lets users know whether they may have recently been exposed to COVID-19. Users can confidentially submit a positive test result into the app and alert others in recent proximity that they may have also been exposed to the virus.

"COVID cases and deaths are now rising fast," said Robert Gordon, director of MDHHS. "Using MI COVID Alert on your cell phone is a simple, safe step that everyone can take to protect themselves and their loved ones. It's free, it's easy, and it protects your privacy."

[READ MORE](#)

Resources and Details for the New Epidemic Order

The MDHHS issued a [new epidemic order](#) that establishes a targeted three-week pause on indoor social gatherings and other group activities in an effort to curb rapidly rising COVID-19 infection rates starting later this week. The order is intended to save lives and protect our frontline heroes.


It is absolutely critical that every resident do their part by following these orders and taking precautions such as wearing a mask, physically distancing and washing hands frequently. **That is why we need your help.**


Here is a link to Sunday's [press release](#) as well as a link to MDHHS Director Robert Gordon's [slide from last night's press conference](#). Below you will find three graphics—a quick guide to the order, ideas to reduce risk associated with two-household gatherings and tips to stay protected in your social "pod." Please share on social media, on your website, in newsletters and more. We can and will get through this together.


COVID-19


PAUSE TO SAVE LIVES


Open


 **Two-household gathering (high precautions)***


 **Small outdoor gatherings (25 people)**


 **Retail**


 **Preschool through 8th grade (local district choice)**


 **Childcare**


 **Manufacturing, construction, other work that is impossible to do remotely**


 **Public transit**


 **Hair salons, barber shops, other personal services**


 **Gyms and pools (for individual exercise)**

 **Restaurants and bars (outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery)**

 **Professional sports** (without spectators)**


 **Parks and outdoor recreation**


 **Funerals (25 people)**


 **Health care**


*See Social Gathering Guidance.
**Includes a limited number of NCAA sports.


Not open


 **High schools (In-person learning)**


 **Colleges and universities (In-person learning)**


 **Workplaces, when work can be done from home**


 **Restaurants and bars (indoor dining)**

 **Organized sports, except professional sports**


 **Theaters, movie theaters, stadiums, arenas**

 **Bowling centers, ice skating rinks, indoor water parks**

 **Bingo halls, casinos, arcades**

 **Group fitness classes**

For more information about the order, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.
Questions or concerns can be emailed to COVID19@michigan.gov.



Socializing with family or friends may feel safe, but it is risky – especially with COVID everywhere in Michigan today. It's best to only get together outside. If you must gather indoors, you may only see one other household at a time.

To reduce risk, follow these guidelines:

- Pick only one other household to see over the next three weeks.** Even better, form a consistent **social pod**.
- Choose a household that is also being careful.** If anyone in either group feels sick, postpone the gathering.
- Limit duration indoors.** The longer the visit, the greater the risk.

Follow these rules as much as possible:



Wear a mask – only take it off when you eat or drink, then put it back on.



Stay six feet apart.



Keep voices down and avoid shouting or cheering.



Do not share utensils.

After a gathering, monitor yourself for symptoms of COVID-19. If anyone in the group feels sick, get tested.

COVID-19

SAFE SOCIAL "PODS"

For more information about social gatherings, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.
Questions or concerns can be emailed to COVID19@michigan.gov.



What is a pod?

A social pod is a core group of friends or family who agree to limit their in-person social activities to only each other, and practice physical distancing with anyone outside the group. Being part of a pod allows members to continue seeing people outside their household while reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Do	Don't
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Agree up front exactly who is in the pod. Keep your pod to under 10 people, and no more than one other household.* ✓ Discuss how vulnerable to COVID members of the pod are (underlying medical conditions, over age 65). ✓ Agree on how all members of the pod will limit risk (e.g., not seeing people outside the pod other than masked outdoors, not working or attending school in person). <i>The whole pod takes on the risk of each member's exposure.</i> ✓ Pledge to be truthful with one another about activities. ✓ Stay outdoors as much as possible, even within the pod. ✓ Communicate immediately if anyone has symptoms or exposure to COVID-19. The entire pod needs to stop getting together immediately, and the person with COVID-19 symptoms should get tested <i>immediately</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Socialize with other people outside your pod, except masked, outdoors, with at least 6 feet physical distance. ✗ Pod with more than 10 people or two households. ✗ Be a part of more than one pod/social circle. ✗ Include people in your pod who have recently engaged in risky behaviors. ✗ Stop following essential public health guidance (frequent handwashing, social distancing, wearing a mask). ✗ Permit members of a household to be in different pods. ✗ Engage in activity that has not been agreed upon with your pod, such as travel. ✗ Stay in a pod if others are engaging in unsafe behavior (e.g., going to large parties or gatherings).
<p>* Households means a group of people living together in a shared dwelling with common kitchen or bathroom facilities.</p>	
<p>For more information about social pods, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus. Questions or concerns can be emailed to COVID19@michigan.gov.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>	

Governor Proposes \$100 million COVID-19 Relief Plan

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer wants state legislators to approve a \$100 million COVID-19 relief plan when they return to session during December.

The Democratic governor sent a letter to leaders of the Republican-controlled Legislature asking for the state-based stimulus program that she said "will provide direct financial support to the families and small businesses that have been hit hardest by the pandemic."

Whitmer's request comes as legislators are scheduled for a return to session on Tuesday until Dec. 17 and Congress has been deadlocked in negotiations over potentially billions of dollars in emergency COVID-19 assistance.

"Michigan families are hurting, and while we must continue to advocate for meaningful support from the federal government, we simply cannot afford to wait," Witmer wrote in Wednesday's letter.

Whitmer acknowledged that development of the program will be complicated by tax revenue losses that have state government facing a potential \$1 billion shortfall next year.

Whitmer also asked lawmakers to permanently extend longer-lasting unemployment benefits. Legislators approved bills in October to lengthen state unemployment benefits to 26 weeks, from 20 weeks, but those expire at the end of the year.

The states Republican Senate majority leader, Mike Shirkey, shares some policy interests with Whitmer and wants the December session to "be focused on an agenda of needs, not wants," spokeswoman Amber McCann said.



HR Question- Reinjury, Recovery and the ADA

I have an employee who texted me last week that he injured his back at home moving a dishwasher; that it was an old injury and that he re-injured and that he would need a couple of days to recover. I requested that he go to the doctor and get a full release before returning to work. I am getting some push back on that from the employee. I need some advice.

[READ ANSWER HERE](#)



ACCA 2021 Conference and Expo Postponed

ACCA 2021 Conference and Expo in New Orleans, LA has been **postponed** due to COVID-19. We tried, and for the past several months ACCA and the Events Committee have been meeting and planning an amazing conference for contractors to attend. The goal, as always, is to bring the best and brightest contractors together to learn and grow as an industry. Unfortunately, due to rising concerns with COVID-19 and increased restrictions, we knew we could not create the type of conference experience our members expect and have grown to love. We look forward to seeing you in-person during a future ACCA event.

For questions or to move your registration to a future event please contact:

- Attendees can contact membership@acca.org
- Exhibitors can contact tom.murphy@acca.org



Contractor Success Day

Are you ready to take your business to the next level? Tired of working in your business rather than "on" it? Wonder how other company owners manage to take family vacations and spend time away, but you can't? We can show you how our members grow their profit by 30% each year!

Make plans now to find out how our members create their own success when you join us for this business-building seminar for owners of contracting business companies. On **December 17, 2020**, we will be at the **Tucson Marriott University Park** in **Tucson, AZ!** Valued at \$749, this meeting is **FREE** for invited guests - and you are invited!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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