



Emmet County News Release



For immediate release – March 24, 2020

Contact – Sheriff Pete Wallin

Sheriff Wallin Provides Update

Emmet County Sheriff Pete Wallin wants to remind citizens of the need to stand together and do their part by adhering to Governor Gretchen Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order that was issued March 23, 2020.

"We need to mitigate the further spread of the COVID-19 for the next three weeks," Sheriff Wallin stated. "People should only go out for essentials under limited circumstances and adhere to social distancing."

Sheriff Wallin went on to say that roads in Emmet County will be open and his officers will not be stopping vehicles checking to see if a person is out purchasing groceries, getting take-out-food, gasoline, needed medical supplies, and any other products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and basic operation of residences.

In regards to non-essential businesses that are still operating and violating the governor's order, Sheriff Wallin stated "there will not be any arrests." His deputies will still investigate complaints that come in regarding persons or businesses not complying with the order and advise the person or business they are violating the order that is in place. The violations will be forwarded to the health department or to the Liquor Control Commission, if the business has a liquor license.

Sheriff Wallin also stated his office will still be responding to citizens' calls for help. Many of the complaints his office receives will be attempted to be handled over the phone if the complaint is for a minor situation, instead of a deputy responding to the scene, if at all possible. All of the Sheriff's Office lobbies at the downtown Petoskey administrative/jail complex, as well as the substations, have been closed to the public until further notice.

Jail visitations have been canceled and fingerprinting and weapon purchases have been suspended. A pistol sales record that needs to be submitted can be mailed to the Sheriff's Office, 450 Bay Street, Petoskey, MI 49770.

Sheriff Wallin encouraged Emmet County residents to "please be patient, stay safe, and do the right thing during this difficult time."

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