



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
3-16-2020

## **BATTLE CREEK PRIDE SMALL GROUP AND MEETINGS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

In light of the State of Emergency and concerns about the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)\*, the BC Pride Board of Directors decided to suspend in-person sessions of all of our support groups starting today, Monday, March 16. All in-person meetings are suspended until the governor lifts the quarantine for k-12 schools.

We have reached out to begin the conversation with the support group leaders on ways during this time of social distancing that we can continue to offer community and support virtual/online. That info will be added to each sub group's Facebook event page and will be posted on our general page once we have a plan in place.

Should you be in need of resources, or if you have any questions or concerns, please email [info@battlecreekpride.org](mailto:info@battlecreekpride.org) and we will try to assist you to the best of our ability.

We urge you to be mindful of the information you consume regarding the virus, whether it's from social media or a news source, as misinformation on public health matters can be dangerous and misleading.

Here are some basic tips to help you stay safe and healthy during this time.

- [clean hands](#) often, including immediately after removing gloves and after contact with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.
- Use alternative greetings that do not require physical touch. Waving, elbow-bumping, air-kisses, and air-hugging are all great substitutes. A verbal "hello" is also sufficient.
- If you need to be in a public space, be mindful of your surroundings and make sure to wash your hands frequently. Pay special attention to what you touch.
- Try not to touch your face. COVID-19 can enter your system through touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Before you touch your face, make sure to wash your hands appropriately.

- Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.
- People who are at higher risk are encouraged to avoid crowds as much as possible. [Find more information here.](#)
- Please stay home if you're sick or not feeling well, especially if you are coughing, you have a fever, or you're experiencing shortness of breath. From the CDC website: If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider immediately.

If you would like more guidance and information on COVID-19, please go to the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

- From the CDC "A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold."

*Local Support Resources:*

<https://www.peoplehelpingpeoplebc.com/?fbclid=IwAR2L7X4Y4wWm9P-5xsB7qBdkpvcblSwwuWhQNLXfYZd7DVzeB0RE3LgodhQ>

*Press Releases from the State of Michigan*

<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158---,00.html>

*Links to Governor's announcements and Q/A sessions:*

<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98414---,00.html>

*City of Battle Creek's COVID-19 Announcement Page:*

[http://battlecreekmi.gov/718/COVID-19?fbclid=IwAR0QuFlsv5RNqVVPzzy-YO0NWECYJiIOX\\_tq8nHB6oibz5MscikuL4sAn4M](http://battlecreekmi.gov/718/COVID-19?fbclid=IwAR0QuFlsv5RNqVVPzzy-YO0NWECYJiIOX_tq8nHB6oibz5MscikuL4sAn4M)

*Calhoun County Health Department:*

[https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/departments/public\\_health\\_department/coronavirus\\_\(covid-19\).php](https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/departments/public_health_department/coronavirus_(covid-19).php)

*CDC's website for best practices and updates:*

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Findex.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Findex.html)

*Need help applying for unemployment if you are laid off:*

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2020/03/16/apply-unemployment-jobs-coronavirus-covid/5056433002/>