Access to Homemade Fabric Face Coverings Increase in Van Buren and Cass County
Community Organizations Provide List of Donate & Locate Sites

Hartford, Mich. – Organizations in Van Buren and Cass County are working together to increase access to homemade fabric face coverings (masks) for local residents, organizations and businesses.

On April 24, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-59 to amend the scope and extend the duration of the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order 2020-42 to May 15, 2020, unless modified earlier. In accordance with this order:

- Any individual able to medically tolerate a face covering must wear a covering over his or her nose and mouth—such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief—when in any enclosed public space.
- All businesses and operations whose workers perform in-person work must, at a minimum, provide non-medical grade face coverings to their workers.
- Supplies of N95 masks and surgical masks should generally be reserved, for now, for health care professionals, first responders (e.g., police officers, fire fighters, paramedics), and other critical workers who interact with the public.

In response to guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Executive Order 2020-59, organizations and community leaders developed “Donate and Locate” lists to be shared with the community-at-large. County lists provide information about where residents can donate their homemade face coverings or locate masks for themselves, their loved ones, and/or employees. Locations will accept all pattern varieties of homemade fabric face coverings.

Fabric face coverings are an additional measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Face coverings should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; be secured with ties or ear loops; include multiple layers of fabric; allow for breathing without restriction; and be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape. Fabric face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing. Individuals should continue to maintain 6-feet distance when outside their home.

For access to Cass and Van Buren County “Locate and Donate” flyers, visit www.vbcassdhd.org/covid-19.