



COUNTY OF HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN



March 23, 2021

Resolution number 21-035

**The Honorable Board of Commissioners of Hillsdale County, Michigan
adopts the following Resolution:**

Whereas, the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners recognizes the heroic efforts of our front-line workers and first responders and applauds the citizens and businesses who have diligently adhered to mitigation measures; and

Whereas, the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners appreciates the need for appropriate executive and epidemic orders and policies to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus and promote public safety, while also protecting local and state economic interests; and

Whereas, Hillsdale County's cases and positivity rates continue to decline, hospital capacity continues to improve, and the number of citizens who have been vaccinated to protect themselves from the virus increases daily; and

Whereas, Hillsdale County as a border county has seen a magnified effect on our economy due to our citizens being able to drive a short distance to Ohio and Indiana, where restrictions are less; and

Whereas, the proximity of Ohio and Indiana to Hillsdale County has particularly impacted our local restaurant industry which is already struggling to recover from another dine-in closure by a curfew and limited capacity that lacks financial viability for most area establishments; and

Whereas, high density populated urban areas and low density populated rural areas have different response needs; and

Whereas, some local businesses may have received some governmental assistance, it was not enough to offset the loss of revenue due to closures and restrictions, thus many local businesses may be forced to close permanently due to the irreparable economic harm they have experienced throughout the past year and many more will follow if the state does not adopt a new approach to mitigation policies; and

Whereas, Hillsdale County has seen a consistent downward trend in numbers affected by COVID-19, it is now time for all of our businesses, including but not limited to restaurants and banquet facilities, to remain open in accordance with CDC guidelines with industry specific procedures and protocols aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19 in place;

Whereas, Hillsdale County Sheriff and Hillsdale County Prosecutor have declared to not enforce or prosecute unconstitutional mandates pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, Therefore Be it Resolved that the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners supports the Hillsdale County Sheriff and Hillsdale County Prosecutor in not enforcing or prosecuting unconstitutional mandates pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Be it Further Resolved that the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners does not support the expenditure of any county funds for the purpose of arrest and prosecution of any person accused of violating MDHHS emergency orders regarding COVID-19.

Be it Further Resolved the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners calls upon the citizens of Hillsdale County to act responsibly with regards to others while determining for themselves what is best for their own families and loved ones and how to protect themselves from the ongoing risks associated with the COVID-19 virus.

Be it Further Resolved that the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners calls upon the Director of MDHHS to implement a new, regional approach to mitigation that values local input; takes cases, vaccinations, seasonality, and regional differences into consideration; and sets clear benchmarks for easing of restrictions on businesses for the public to follow.

Be it Further Resolved that this resolution is sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, both United States Senators, all Michigan Members of Congress, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, the President of the Michigan Senate, Senator Mike Shirkey, Representative Andrew Fink, all counties within Michigan, The Michigan Association of Counties, The Michigan Townships Associations, and Elizabeth Hertel Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Respectfully,
Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners

Doug Ingles – District 1

Kathleen Schmitt – District 2

Mark E. Wiley, Chair – District 3

Brad Benzing, Vice-Chair – District 4

Brent Leininger – District 5