

MARK HACKEL, MACOMB COUNTY EXECUTIVE



October 28, 2020

Good afternoon,

As you have surely heard, the number of positive cases of COVID-19 is ticking upward across the nation, state and county. Our dynamic team of public health experts, service providers, community partners and volunteers remains committed to serving our community. Please continue to follow CDC guidelines, and connect with [macombgov.org](https://www.macombgov.org) to stay informed.

Otherwise, the big news in Macomb County this week is our bid to become the next headquarters for the [United States Space Command](#) (USSPACECOM). USSPACECOM is the newest of the eleven unified commands in the Department of Defense (DoD). USSPACECOM increases the ability of the Joint Force to project power and influence, reduces decision timelines for space operations, and brings focused attention to defending U.S. interests in space. Establishing USSPACECOM is a critical step in accelerating the ability of the Joint Force to defend vital national interests and deter adversaries. USSPACECOM is temporarily headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Working with our partners and the city of Sterling Heights, we are in the running to host their new headquarters. Check out [this story](#) to learn more.

Meanwhile, our first-ever "Macomb County's Prettiest Tree" contest is open for [voting](#)! The tree with the most votes by Sunday, Nov 1 at 5 p.m. will win a great collection of Made in Macomb goodies to enjoy during the fall season. Coordinated by the Department of Planning & Economic Development through it's "[Green Macomb](#)" program, this fun contest helps to highlight how trees enhance our neighborhoods.

As always, please remember to take good care of yourself and others. With kindness and compassion, we will get through this.

Wishing you wellness,

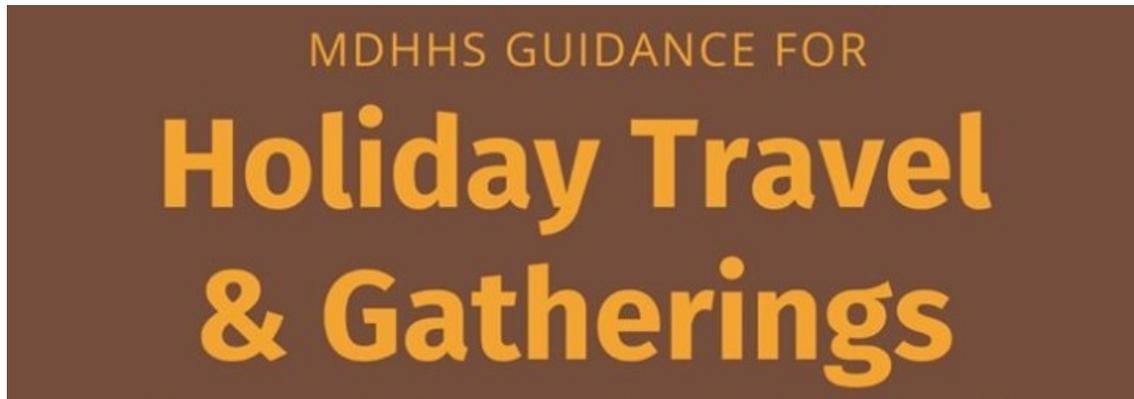
Mark

**Mark A. Hackel**  
**Macomb County Executive**

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## Important Things to Know

- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services just issued important guidance for the holiday season. As you start thinking ahead to Thanksgiving and other celebrations, please consider reading the following safety recommendations for [travel](#) and for [family gatherings](#). Additionally, those interested in recommendations for safely voting in this year's election can [click here](#).



- Halloween is still on in Michigan, and with a few minor adjustments to your traditions, you can ensure the safety and health of all those around you. Check out these 5 simple precautions that you can take in Macomb County and beyond in a new Metro Parent Magazine article featuring the director of the Macomb County Health Department, Bill Ridella. [Read more](#).
- Macomb County Planning and Economic Development has opened a new grant program to help small businesses dealing with the impact of COVID-19. This is the final opportunity for these organizations to apply for assistance. The grant application process will remain open through November 2, 2020 at 12 p.m. Businesses with 50-500 employees may be eligible for grants up to \$10,000. Businesses with 1-49 employees may be eligible for grants up to \$5,000. [Learn more](#).



- Medicare open enrollment assistance is now open and runs through December 7. This is the opportunity for Medicare participants to review their plan options and make changes for 2021. The Macomb County Office of Senior Services has a trained, unbiased team of advocates in place to assist with the process. In-person appointments can be scheduled with the office by calling 586-469-5228. You must be 60 years or older and a Macomb County resident. An option to meet with an advocate by phone is also available.
- The Macomb County Health Department and its community partners have launched a new Community Health Survey to hear from everyone who lives, works and plays in Macomb County. All it takes is 10 minutes. Make your voice heard by [clicking here](#).



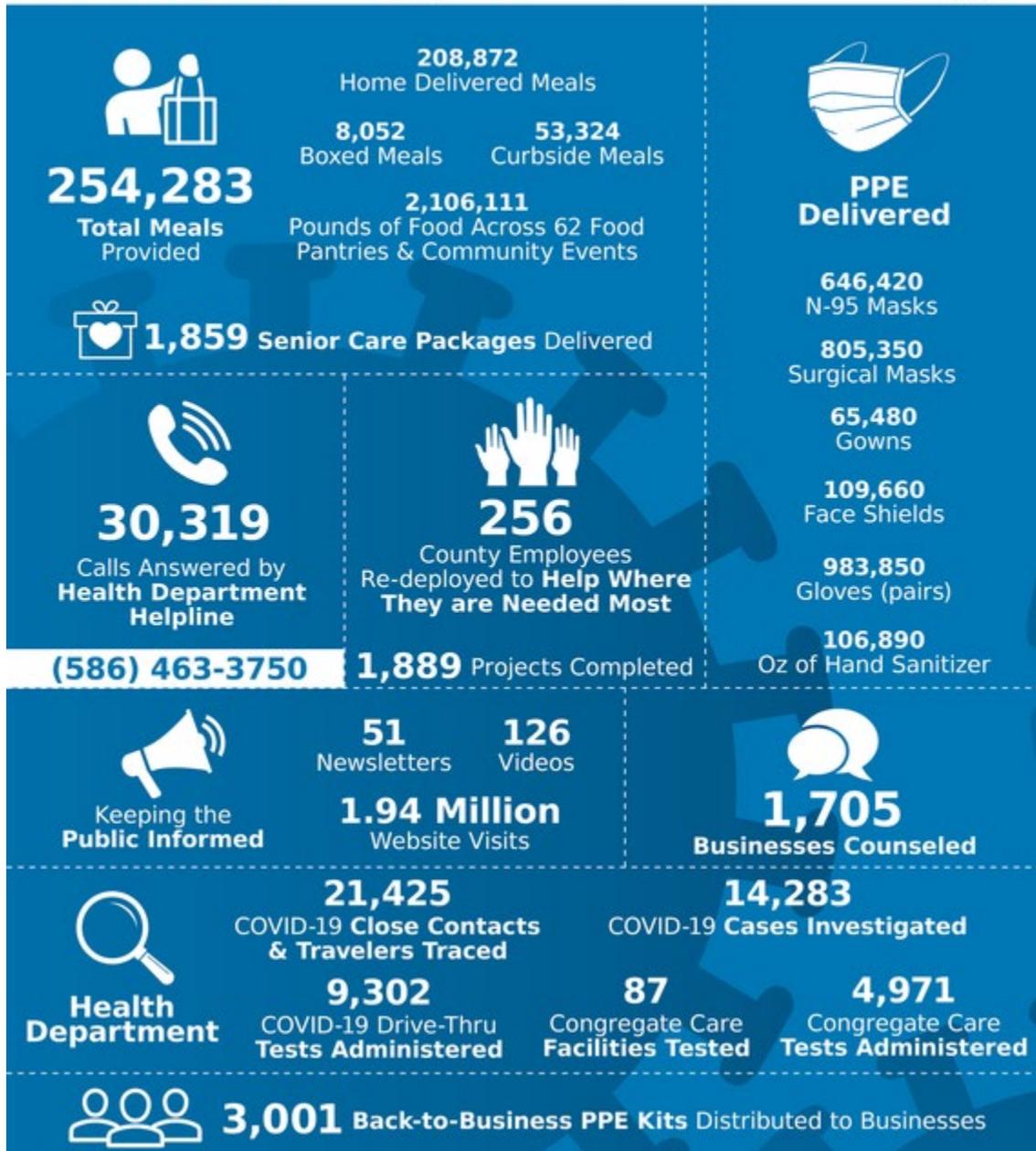
- If you are in need of financial assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to Macomb Community Action (MCA). The team is standing by to help you with rent and mortgage payments, utility bills and groceries. MCA has also launched a

Coronavirus Relief Water and Plumbing Repair program for Macomb County residents. Applicants must meet program guidelines, including income guidelines, to qualify. Please call 586-469-6329 to apply.

- Macomb County leaders and personnel have been on the ground responding to the COVID-19 crisis since mid-March. Here's what has been accomplished so far:

## MACOMB COUNTY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

March 11 - September 30, 2020



Executive Mark Hackel has been regularly sharing video updates with Macomb County residents on YouTube and social media. Click on the links below for the latest updates.



- [Macomb County COVID-19 Update with Executive Hackel - October 22](#)

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## In the News

- Programs in Macomb County work to meet the needs of families in the community. [Read more.](#)
- Not all job news is bad. For these industries, jobs are growing in Michigan. [Read more.](#)
- Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announces COVID-19 grants for teachers, support staff. [Read more.](#)
- Michigan adds 2,367 COVID-19 cases, 28 more deaths. [Read more.](#)

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## Helpful Information and Resources

The Macomb County Emergency Operations Center and Department of Health continue to lead local efforts to respond to the ever-evolving nature of COVID-19 pandemic. For the latest COVID-19 data, news and information, click on the buttons below for helpful resources available to you.



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## Stay Informed

If you have questions about COVID-19, please call the Macomb County Health Department helpline at 586-463-3750. The helpline is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For the latest information from Macomb County regarding COVID-19, please visit [macombgov.org/covid19](https://macombgov.org/covid19).

