

MARK HACKEL, MACOMB COUNTY EXECUTIVE



February 25, 2021

Good morning,

Yesterday we joined with the City of Sterling Heights and SMART to [announce](#) the county's second community-based COVID-19 vaccination site for those aged 60 and up. As I've said before, senior citizens are a priority for Macomb County as they are our most at-risk population when it comes to the coronavirus. So please know that we will continue to look for opportunities to vaccinate this population safely and to advocate for more vaccines on their behalf.

Now, we recently had a brief taste of some warmer weather - making it perfect to get outdoors and go for a walk. This is great timing, as this week is Macomb Community Action's annual Walk for Warmth. For 31 years, MCA has hosted this event with the goal of raising funds to help low-income individuals who have trouble keeping their heat running during the winter. This year, in lieu of an in-person walk, organizers opted for a weeklong virtual experience - where participants could pledge a donation and walk in their neighborhood or local park. The event will run through February 27, so there is still plenty of time to register, donate or even sign on as a sponsor. This is a really great initiative and I hope we can count on our community's support so we can continue helping those in need. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Thank you and as always, keep yourself and your family safe.

Mark

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

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## Important Things to Know

The Macomb County Health Department yesterday announced a new partnership with the City of Sterling Heights that will create a new community-based COVID-19 vaccination site at the Sterling Heights Senior Center (40200 Utica Rd, Sterling Heights, MI 48313). The site will be staffed by trained health professionals from the Sterling Heights Fire Department and transportation services can be provided through SMART. Appointments are required; the site is not open to walk-ups. To make an appointment, residents aged 60 and up can call

the **SMART Vaccine Line at 586-421-6579** or email [macombvaccine@smartbus.org](mailto:macombvaccine@smartbus.org) with their name, phone number, address and date of birth. Registrants will be added to the SMART wait list, and Macomb County staff will call eligible responders to schedule appointments as they become available. Appointments will be made at either the Sterling Heights location or the community-based drive through site in Richmond.

Seniors are also encouraged to register for COVID-19 vaccine appointments through other Macomb County locations as well:

- In partnership with the Macomb County Health Department, Meijer Pharmacy is registering individuals and reaching out to make appointments at one of several Macomb County stores. To register, individuals can text COVID to 75049, [go online](#) or simply visit a local Meijer pharmacy and ask to register.
- Rite Aid Pharmacy is also registering individuals who are aged 65 and above and will contact those who are currently eligible based on availability of the vaccine. To register for an appointment, [click here](#).

FAQ: Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA? No.

COVID-19 mRNA vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response. The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. This means the mRNA cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way. Instead, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease. Learn more about how COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work [here](#).



The Michigan Department of State will enable new online services for customers and expand the capability of self-service stations to include driver's license and state ID transactions next month. [Click here](#) to learn more.

[Macomb County Animal Control](#) (MCAC), with the help of a generous donor, has launched a new Pet Retention Program. Funds for this initiative will be used to assist pet owners who, as a result of the pandemic, are struggling to care for their pets or are at risk of having to surrender their pets. These pet owners can qualify for up to \$500, which can be

used to subsidize an animal's medical care, provide items for the animal's wellness or for training. The program is open to all Macomb County residents. MCAC also extends a helping hand to families and their pets through its Pet Food Pantry. Anyone interested in applying for the Pet Retention Program, or those in need of support from the pantry, should contact MCAC at 586-469-5115



The MDHHS Aging & Adult Services Agency has announced the launch of CV19 CheckUp in Michigan. CV19 CheckUp is a free, anonymous, personalized online tool that evaluates an individual's risks associated with COVID-19 based on their life situation and individual behavior and provides recommendations and resources to reduce those risks. All Michiganders, especially those 60 and over, should visit [michigan.cv19checkup.org](https://michigan.cv19checkup.org) to receive a free, personal assessment.

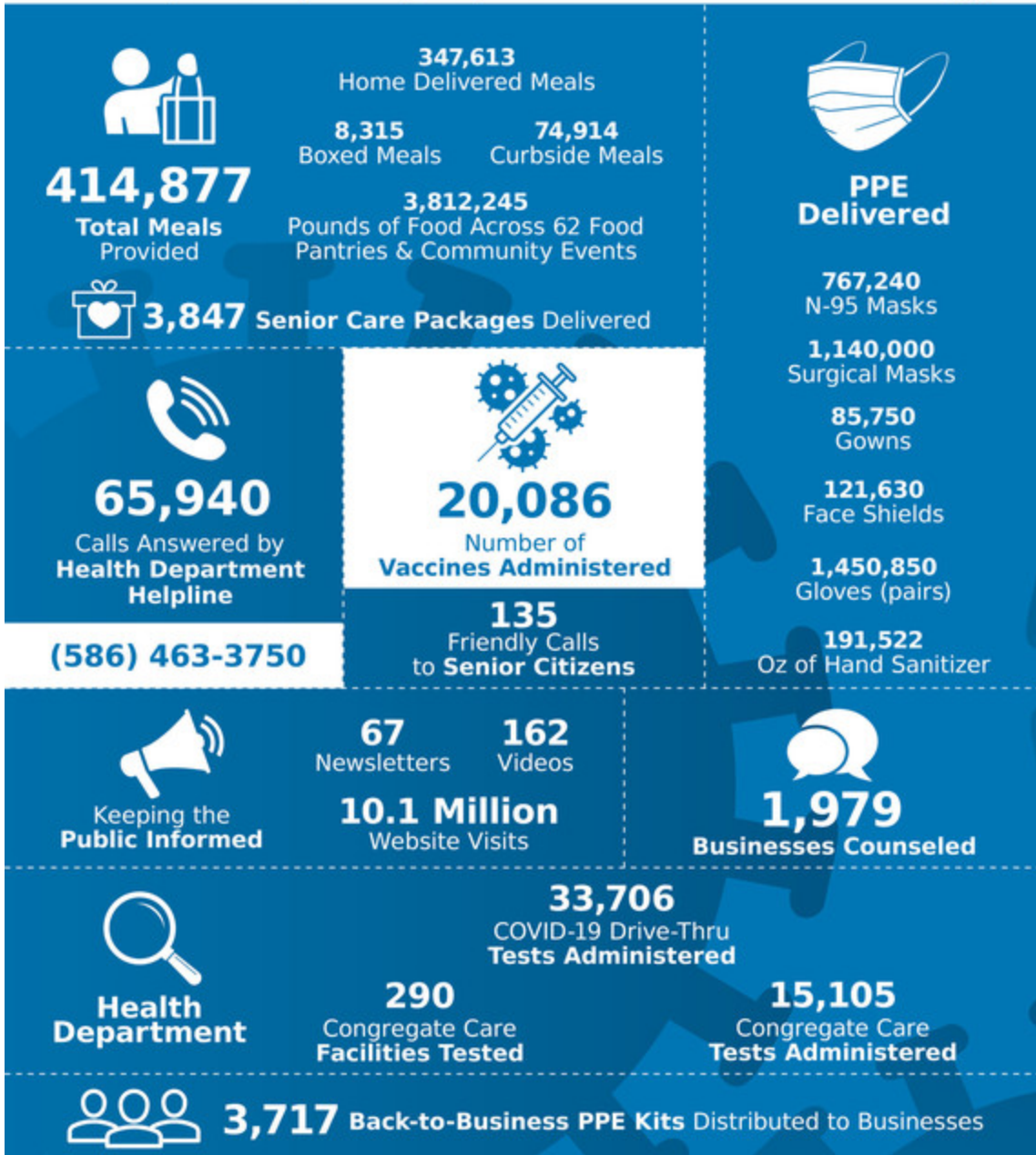
The Macomb Food Program will distribute food to families in need in Macomb County on March 18 at the Thompson Community Center in Warren between 10 a.m. and Noon. This is a drive-up event where individuals can pick up non-perishable food items and frozen meats, as well as dairy and produce. Learn more [here](#).



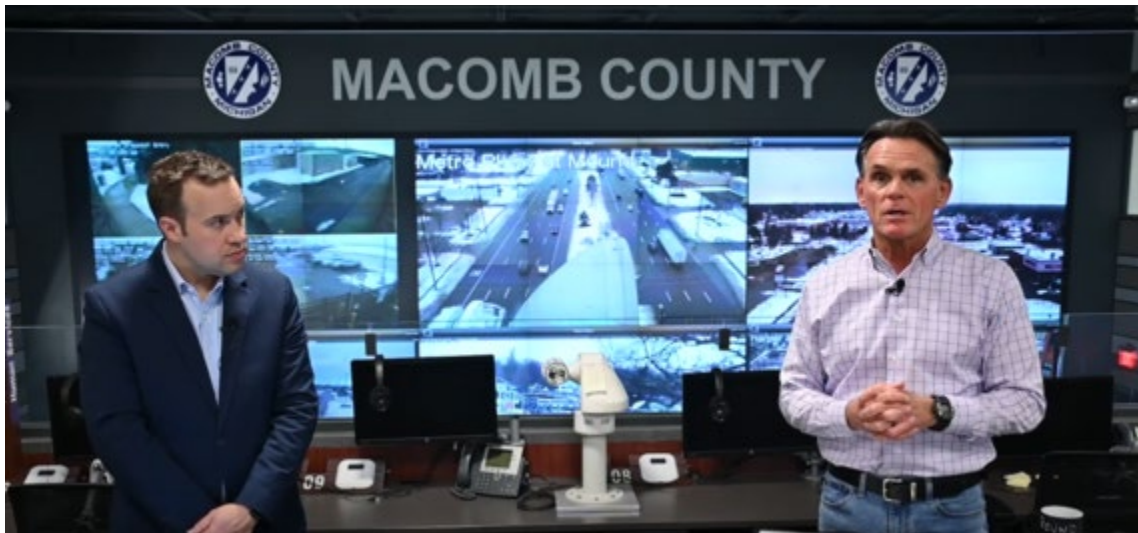
Macomb County leaders and personnel have been on the ground responding to the COVID-19 crisis since mid-March. Here's what has been accomplished so far:

# MACOMB COUNTY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

March 11, 2020 - January 31, 2021



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



### [COVID-19 Update with Executive Mark Hackel - February 22](#)

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## **In the News**

Older people the focus of new COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Wayne, Macomb counties.

[Read more.](#)

New community-based COVID-19 vaccination site launches in Sterling Heights. [Read](#)

[more.](#)

Tax season: Answering pandemic tax questions. [Read more.](#)

FDA Analysis Of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Finds It Safe, Effective. [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).



