MDHHS ORDER,
GATHERINGS & LIBRARIES

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN
Occupancy vs Gatherings:

**Occupancy** for public libraries (section 4(a)) = 30% of total occupancy (this includes staff in the building)

**Gatherings** = any occurrence, either indoor or outdoor, where **two or more persons from more than one household** are present in a shared space. (Section 1(h))
Purpose of MDHHS Order and limit of gatherings

• General Order/Occupancy Limit - intend to limit or mitigate infection spread by limiting the number of people from different households that can be in close proximity to each other in activities
  • Reduce community spread
  • Balance between safety and preserving economy and ability to keep society going.

• Gathering limit is more specific – intent is to limit specific threat caused by socializing among people familiar with each other
  • Studies show that these activities encourage more personal and encourage false sense of security leading to less adherence to safety protocols.
What is occupancy vs gatherings

Occupancy applies to entire building – whether patrons are meeting together to share a book talk or storyhour in a meeting room, or whether patrons are browsing books in the stacks.

Gatherings only apply to patrons or staff congregating in the same shared space – like a meeting room or around a table.
This creates confusion

- Can I have in-person Staff meetings?
- Can patrons utilize meeting rooms?
- How do we serve patrons if more than one comes together since staff would be a different household?
- Can my board meet in-person
Work contact providing service not gathering

• Exempted by MDHHS Order sections 2(c)(2), 2(c)(3)
• Libraries and businesses must be able to work in-person with patrons.
• Not considered gathering
  • Reference assistance
  • Circulation work
  • Assisting with computer
MDHHS Order vs MiOSHA Rules

• MDHHS Order applies to EVERYONE unless order includes exemptions
• MiOSHA Orders apply to WORKPLACES

Meetings/gatherings permitted by MiOSHA rules would be those that MUST be in-person and cannot be “feasibly” held virtually. The intent is for in-person meetings that are necessary to accomplish work.

6ft of distancing AND masking apply
2 patrons asking for ref help ok (6 ft away, masks – another patron browsing other side of desk - ok

Staff assisting 2 patrons – ok (masks and distancing)
Gatherings

3 Jedi looking for a meeting/study room – not ok because they each live in different households (less than 10 but more than 2 households)

Justice League comes in for meeting space - all live in watchtower by Dr Fate – he lives on his own - this is ok - 6 members 2 households
Gatherings

Avengers – 4 members- ask for meeting space – ok – they all live in Avengers Tower.

Platoon of clone troopers need meeting space – all live in same barracks – not ok because there are 12 – more than the 10 person limit.
Staff Meetings

Impromptu or formal small meeting between staff or staff and management for purposes of handing work issues.

Large staff meeting to congratulate staff on work anniversary/birthday, etc. – Not recommended and not likely permitted under order or rules.
Board Meetings

• Prohibited under order (unless your board lives together)

• Prohibited under OMA requirement that no member of the public can be turned away
• Err on side of small in-person staff interactions unless absolutely necessary.
• Adhere to masking and distancing requirements and enforce these with patrons.
• If uncomfortable questioning meeting room users on addresses, close meeting rooms.