

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Safe & Just
Michigan

Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director John Cooper on Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's lack of action to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan prisons:

“The COVID-19 outbreak in the Michigan Department of Corrections is very serious — among the largest in the country, with 500 confirmed prisoner cases and nearly 200 more staff cases. This has happened in spite of proactive measures by MDOC and the governor's office to reduce prison admissions, increase paroles and reduce the likelihood of spread within facilities.

“In light of the continued spread of COVID-19 within MDOC facilities with these measures in place, Safe & Just Michigan believes that additional executive actions may be necessary to manage the COVID-19 crisis in the MDOC. These include expanding the parole board and using the governor's emergency and clemency powers to ensure that further spread of COVID-19 within facilities — and to staff and the communities they live in — is limited as much as possible.”

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Safe & Just Michigan (www.safeandjustmi.org) works to advance policies that end Michigan's over-use of incarceration and promote community safety and healing. We partner with Michigan organizations and leaders from across the political spectrum, including business and community leaders, faith communities, crime survivor organizations, formerly incarcerated individuals, prisoners and their families, as well as Michigan taxpayers statewide.