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## OCRC joins regional road agencies in developing COVID-19 response plan



While West Michigan road agencies continue to take steps to reduce COVID-19 exposure and prevent infection in the workplace, the Ottawa County Road Commission and

surrounding organizations are planning ahead with contingencies should any of our workforce be compromised by increased cases of COVID-19.

A joint response plan has been developed to assist across jurisdictional boundaries, which will allow agencies to work collaboratively to respond to potential operational impacts. Neighboring agencies would assist during storm response efforts to ensure that the region's main transportation arteries -- the highest volume, highest speed roads -- are cleared first.

It is vital to the safety of our residents and emergency personnel that the highest volume roads throughout the region receive priority. This means that there may be delay in lower volume, residential streets, and you could see another agency's plow trucks on your street – or even a truck from your community assisting in another area.

Should we need to enact the joint response plan, we will strive for a seamless deployment of resources that minimizes this type of delay.

Please visit our website at [www.ottawacorc.com](http://www.ottawacorc.com), or visit our Facebook or Twitter pages for any updates on our winter maintenance response, and any COVID-19 related updates.

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# Why do road trucks have green flashing lights?

Have you ever driven in a snow storm and wondered, "Why do snow plows have green flashing strobe lights?"

The basic answer: to help our crews be more visible - especially in wintry



conditions with low visibility.

The green cone in the human eye is the most sensitive and has the longest wavelength. This means green lights appear brighter and can be seen from farther away than other colored lights. This makes them suitable for enhanced visibility in inclement conditions such as a snow storm.

If you see blinking green lights, they are coming from a county road maintenance vehicle.

Be sure to slow down, be vigilant and steer clear of the road work, but also take care to stay on the roadway.

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## Weight restrictions? There's an app for that!

Those looking for information about seasonal weight restrictions on Ottawa County roads have a new resource at their fingertips.

The County Road Association of Michigan (CRA) has released a new seasonal weight restrictions app, just in time for the upcoming weight restriction season.

CRA partnered with the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association (MITA) and the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association to bring the app to life.

The app was designed to provide drivers out on the road with weight restriction information on a portable device which is more appropriate to the modern work environment. It includes data users have depended on for years from the CRA along with new features users have asked for.

CRA's iconic green, yellow and red weight restrictions map has been completely overhauled, down to brighter colors used to indicate the presence of restrictions in a county.

Each county now has a corresponding pop-up box that includes the date weight restrictions go into effect and are taken off; lists of restricted and all-season roads; the last time information was updated; and two particularly noteworthy new features: the ability to sign up for notifications and a link that takes users directly to Oxcart -- our online transportation permitting provider -- to pull a transportation permit.

Other than the map, CRA also provides a table of information that includes everything in the map pop-up, organized in an easy-to-read list of counties sorted by alphabetical order.

CRA has also launched a new website that seamlessly integrates with the app.

Data from the app and website all pull from one source. That means counties only have to enter their information once and users know they're getting accurate information whenever they pull it up.

To find more information about seasonal weight restrictions, [visit the "Trucking" section of our website](#), or scan the QR code in the image above to be taken to the CRA's website.

**Download the CRA Mich. Seasonal Weight Restrictions app today!**



**Scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet.**



#### **Important Dates:**

**January 14, 2021 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting**

**January 28, 2021 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting**

[View Meeting Minutes & Agendas](#)



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#### **The Ottawa County Road Commissioners:**

Tom Bird | Tom Elhart | Betty Gajewski | Kurt Van Koevering | Jim Miedema

**Managing Director**  
Brett Laughlin