

AUTOS

2020 Detroit auto show canceled after venue chosen for coronavirus field hospital

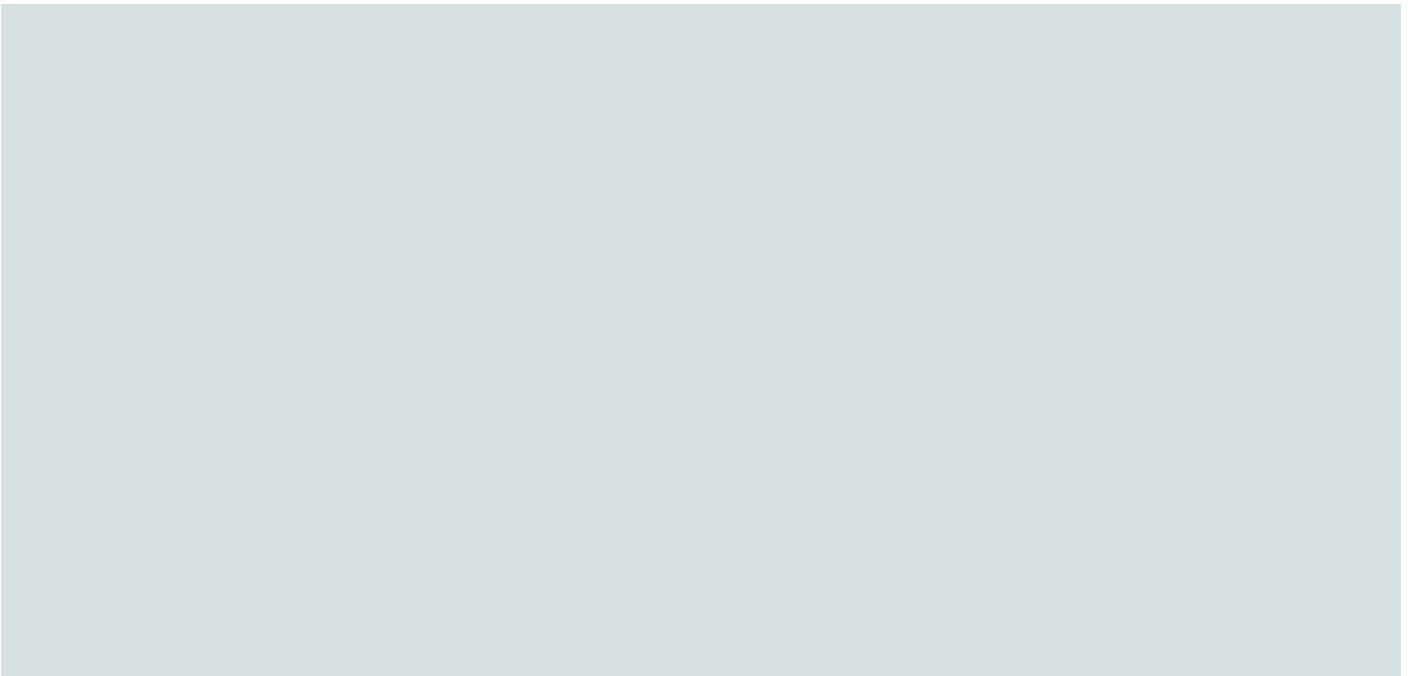
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Michael Wayland
[@MIKEWAYLAND](#)

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KEY POINTS

- The 2020 Detroit auto show has been canceled due to the coronavirus.
- The show's venue in downtown Detroit will be used as a field hospital for the Federal Emergency Management Administration.
- The event is the third large-scale auto show to be canceled due to COVID-19.



The 2020 Detroit auto show has been canceled as its venue will be used as a field hospital for the Federal Emergency Management Administration, according to two sources familiar with the plans.

The event is the third large-scale auto show to be canceled or postponed due to COVID-19. The Geneva auto show was [canceled last month](#), followed [by a postponement](#) of the New York International Auto Show, which was scheduled to begin next month, to late-August.

The next Detroit show, officially known as the North American International Auto Show, will take place at the TCF Center in June 2021, according to the sources who did not want to be identified because the news wasn't public. The show typically takes months to set up due to large, multimillion dollar displays and massive video screens from dozens of auto brands.

Show officials confirmed the plans Saturday night: "Although we are disappointed, there is nothing more important to us than the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of Detroit and Michigan, and we will do what we can to support our community's fight against the coronavirus outbreak," said Rod Alberts, executive director of the show, in a release.

Michigan is becoming one of the major epicenters in the U.S. for coronavirus cases. As of Saturday, state officials had reported 4,650 cases, including 111 deaths, in Michigan.

The cancellation of the show comes at a precarious time for the auto industry, which has been dealing with vehicle production and supplier disruption [issues as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak](#) for months. It also adds to challenging times for auto shows, many of which have been losing momentum and automaker attendees in recent years.



instead of winter, a move event organizers hoped would draw more attention, attendance and vehicle debuts to the show.

VIDEO 03:39

Here's what Ford's CEO says to expect from the company in 2019

The Detroit show is one of the industry's premier annual events, drawing hundreds of thousands of people to the Motor City to see the fastest and latest new vehicles. It's also known for a place the Detroit automakers specifically release their most important products.

Ford Motor, in a statement, said officials "fully support NAIAS organizers in their postponement. The health and safety of our community and those working throughout the industry is our top priority. We look forward to seeing the show's return in 2021."

A spokesman for [Fiat Chrysler](#) said the company understands and supports the decision, at this difficult time. [General Motors](#) did not immediately respond for comment.

York auto show. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo [announced Friday](#) that the construction of a temporary hospital at the venue had been completed with the help of FEMA and the National Guard.

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