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For Immediate Release

March 16, 2020

Health Department of Northwest Michigan Reports Second COVID-19 Case; First Case in Otsego County

One Individual from Otsego County Tests Positive at State Lab

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting the second presumptive positive case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in their jurisdiction, this one from a resident of Otsego County who was likely exposed through international travel. The individual, an adult male, is isolated and recuperating at a residence.

The Health Department has been working with him to identify and contact anyone potentially exposed. Additional information and guidance will be announced as soon as possible at nwhealth.org or at facebook.com/nwhealthdepartment/.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). “We are relying on everyone in our community to work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 through prevention measures,” said Josh Meyerson, MD, Medical Director for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

Prevention measures include:

- **Cleaning your hands often. Scrubbing with soap for at least 20 seconds. Using hand sanitizer if you cannot wash.**
- **Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Staying home when you are sick**, except to get medical care. Call ahead before going to your healthcare provider. Learn [what to do if you are sick](#).
- **Covering your cough or sneeze** with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash. Immediately wash your hands.
- **Cleaning and disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces.**
- **Following the Governor’s orders and recommendations to limit gatherings.**

Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. [View additional prevention steps from CDC](#) for people at higher risk. Consult with your health care provider for more steps you may be able to take to protect yourself.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has created a statewide hotline for COVID-19. Public health and other experts will answer health-related questions about COVID-19. The team can also direct residents, providers and more to the right resources in their local communities and in other state government departments. The hotline will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-888-535-6136.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit nwhealth.org.

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