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Health Department of Northwest Michigan Announces First Emmet County COVID-19 Death

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan received notice of the first COVID-19 related death from an Emmet County resident this evening. The individual was an older male who was hospitalized at McLaren Northern Michigan.

“We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of this individual,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “We understand that this news is difficult for our communities as we navigate through this uncertain time and a tragic reminder of how serious and close COVID-19 is.”

As this situation continues to evolve, we remind our residents that our most important tool remains social distancing - a known, effective method of reducing the spread of a communicable disease. We also urge our residents to:

- only leave home for essential needs and as infrequently as possible,
- stay at least 6 feet away and avoid gatherings, if you must go out,
- wash your hands frequently for at least twenty seconds,
- avoid touching your face,
- disinfect commonly touched surfaces,
- check on others – by calling loved ones and neighbors who are most at risk to see how they are doing and if they need help.

We know that these are difficult conditions. We know that people are scared for themselves and for their loved ones. We also know that we have a strong community that will work together – even with distance – to get through this.

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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