



MEDIA CONTACT:
Erin Luckhardt, PIO
O: 231-347-5628
e.luckhardt@nwhealth.org
www.nwhealth.org

April 3, 2020

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

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan received notice of a death related to COVID-19 this afternoon. The individual was an Otsego County male in his 50's, who was hospitalized at Grayling Hospital.

“We extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of this individual,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “We know that news of these tragic deaths hits close to home for our communities and we need to continue to work together to stay ahead of this frightening curve.”

Now is the critical time for our residents to continue to utilize our most important tool: social distancing. We cannot reiterate just how important it is for 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 our communities are close knit and strong and will continue to take care of each other during these uncertain times, even from a distance.

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.

###