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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reminding residents that Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-59 extending the Stay Home, Stay Safe measures through May 15th, 2020. The collective actions of Michiganders, specifically staying home and maintaining a safe physical distance from those outside the household, since the onset of COVID-19 in our state have allowed for the preliminary stages of economic re-engagement to begin.

“It is important for our residents to adhere to the guidelines added to the Governor’s updated Stay Home, Stay Safe executive order, by wearing a mask or homemade face covering any time they are in an enclosed public space,” shared Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “We are excited to see the initial phase of re-engagement begin as allowed with this new executive order. However, businesses, employees, and residents must continue taking all necessary precautions to prevent a second wave of COVID-19 in our communities and health care systems.”

In addition to specific sectors added and now considered critical infrastructure workers, Executive Order 2020-59 now requires specific precautionary measures. As of April 26th, 2020 at 11:59 pm, any individual able to medically tolerate a face covering must wear a covering over his or her nose and mouth when in any enclosed public space. Additionally, all businesses and operations whose workers perform in-person work must, at a minimum, provide non-medical grade face coverings to their workers. Please refer to the [State of Michigan's website](#) for Executive Order 2020-59 in full.

We want to remind residents that N95 masks and surgical masks should be reserved for health care professionals, and individuals can wear a homemade or no-sew mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief.

We understand this can be a difficult situation for many. Residents who need support can call 1-800-386-5959 to access our Public Health Information Line or call 211 to be connected with local resources.

As of 4:00pm, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 9, Charlevoix – 13, Emmet – 21, Otsego – 84; and confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 1, Emmet – 2, Otsego – 7. The State of Michigan has reported 36,641 cases and 3,085 deaths.

Stay up to date on the latest information in the Health Department jurisdiction by [liking and following our Facebook page](#) and visiting our [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#).

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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