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**May 1, 2020**

**Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan recognizes and thanks residents that continue to follow the guidelines outlined in Governor Whitmer's latest executive orders. We know that the more compliant we can be, the more likely we will see restrictions continue to be lifted.

The curve is flattening, and we have all played an active role in preventing the surge that was predicted on our health care systems. We ask our communities to continue these efforts. Stay Home, Stay Safe, Save Lives remains the most important message for residents throughout Northwest Michigan. On April 24, Governor Whitmer extended the [Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order 2020-59](#) through May 15. The order outlines the following key points regarding masks:

- Everyone must wear a cloth, non-medical grade mask while in an enclosed public space
  - Masks should not be placed on anyone under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, and anyone otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
  - 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 handkerchiefs.
- Businesses are to provide masks for employees who are reporting in-person for work
- Recommending people wear a cloth, non-medical grade mask while outside in a public space

Dr. Josh Meyerson, Health Department of Northwest Michigan Medical Director, shared "it is extremely important to remember that even when wearing a mask, people should practice social distancing and continue regular, if not more frequent handwashing, as they may touch their faces more to adjust masks."

There are many community members and groups working to sew face coverings, and we would like to compile these resources for our website and Facebook page. Any individual or group that would like us to share their information should tag on us on Facebook.

As of 4:00pm, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 10, Charlevoix – 13, Emmet – 21, Otsego – 91; and confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 1, Emmet – 2, Otsego – 8. The State of Michigan has reported 42,356 cases and 3,866 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](http://nwhealth.org).*

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