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

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has re-issued our Public Health Emergency Order to align with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-70 and any current or future Executive Order. Please find the new Public Health Emergency Order 2020-4 [on our website](#) and replace all copies of 2020-3 with this updated document.

Due to the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order, restrictions on non-essential procedures were put into place to ensure healthcare systems had enough staffing, bed capacity and personal protective equipment (PPE) to care for all patients, as well as to limit the spread of COVID-19. However, essential medical and dental procedures have remained available and we want to remind residents not to delay important medical care.

"We support our hospital systems and local medical providers as they implement careful plans to re-establish needed services. We are also so proud of our teams at Dental Clinics North who have been and continue to be open for emergency services, allowing patients to be cared for in a familiar and appropriate setting." states Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

The following guidelines should assist in determining the best way to treat patients without delaying needed medical services, but these are not a substitute for clinical judgement on a case-by-case basis. The recommendations include:

- Limiting in-person contact as much as possible, and implementing best practices for infection prevention and control, such as maximizing the use of telehealth, eliminating waiting room times, requiring patients to wear masks, and more.
- Prioritizing in-person patient interactions and face-to-face appointments for the most vulnerable patients, and for necessary services like immunizations.
- Reassuring patients of appropriate safety measures such as expanded testing, health screening and PPE.
- Assuring appropriate surge capacity and developing emergency plans including how to gradually start doing more procedures, conserving PPE, and ensuring adequate supplies and staffing.

Do not delay important medical care, especially emergency care. If you, or a household member, are showing signs of potentially life-threatening disease, such as heart attack or stroke, do not delay seeking urgent medical attention, testing or treatment.

As of 4:00pm, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 10, Charlevoix – 14, Emmet – 21, Otsego – 95; confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 1, Emmet – 2, Otsego – 8. The State of Michigan has reported 45,054 cases and 4,250 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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