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

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan wants to remind residents that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has expanded the COVID-19 testing criteria, and previous barriers such as cost or a doctor's order have been alleviated. Most people who wish to be tested can now receive a test and we are happy to assist the public with getting access to testing. If you would like to be tested, please call 1-800-432-4121 for assistance.

In addition to anyone with even mild symptoms and those at high risk for severe outcomes such as the elderly and those with underlying conditions, listed below are the latest eligible individuals for COVID-19 testing.

- Asymptomatic patients in preparation for surgical procedures, as deemed necessary by the treating clinician
- Asymptomatic people with known exposure to a person with COVID-19, or symptoms of COVID-19
- Asymptomatic people who are leaving home to go to work
- Those living in areas with low testing numbers including northern Michigan

"Even though we are less restricted now than we have been in weeks, it is up to each of us to approach this with care. I can't emphasize enough how important personal responsibility becomes as the rules become less strict," shared Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "If we are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 we should be staying home from work, gatherings, and restaurants, as well as locate and get a COVID-19 test."

Last week, the State of Michigan released the [MI Start Map](#). This map is a newly designed online dashboard that visually displays COVID-19 risks and trends in Michigan by region and county. More information about this map can be found [here](#).

As of 4:00pm, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting:

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 12, Charlevoix – 15, Emmet – 21, Otsego – 100
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 11, Charlevoix – 12, Emmet – 19, Otsego – 84
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 1, Emmet – 2, Otsego – 10.

The State of Michigan has reported 55,608 cases and 5,334 deaths; and as of May 22, cumulative recovered cases: 33,168.

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](#). To locate a testing facility, visit the [Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder website](#).

*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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