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

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting two new cases today with a primary residence in Antrim (1) and Emmet (1) counties. Case investigations and contact tracing are in progress, and information will be shared when it is available.

We ask residents who have been tested to be prepared to answer or return a call to begin contact tracing and case investigation. To break the chain of infection and slow the spread of the virus we, along with the state of Michigan and other local health departments, rely on a three-part strategy – Test, Trace, and Protect. We are working diligently with all state and community partners to continually increase access to testing. We rely on those who receive positive test results to answer our calls so we can complete their case investigation, contact tracing, and provide them with isolation guidance in order to protect our communities from further spread.

On Friday, the Governor signed [Executive Order 2020-153](#) making minor changes to the previous masking executive order. While there are many opinions on face coverings and masks, we want to remind the public that this is an important action we can all take together to keep our local businesses open, our communities healthy, and prepare us to re-open schools in the fall.

Dr. Meyerson, Medical Director, shared, “masks are inexpensive and, if we all wear them, they are an easy way to allow us to continue doing the things we like to do. Masks play an important role in preventing the spread of the virus.”

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 27, Charlevoix – 36, Emmet – 41, Otsego – 109
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 15, Charlevoix – 18, Emmet – 20, Otsego – 92
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 2, Emmet – 2, Otsego – 10.

The State of Michigan has reported 74,152 cases and 6,126 deaths; and as of July 17<sup>th</sup>, cumulative recovered cases: 55,162.

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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