



MEDIA CONTACT:
Laurel Johnson, PIO
O: 231-347-5628
l.johnson@nwhealth.org
www.nwhealth.org

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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 12 new confirmed cases in Antrim (1), Charlevoix (2), Emmet (6), and Otsego (3) counties. Case investigations and contact tracing are in progress, and relevant information will be shared when it is available.

Although COVID-19 is novel, contact tracing is not. [Contact tracing](#) is a public health tool that is used to help stop the spread of certain communicable diseases. Contact tracing involves reaching out to people who are recently confirmed to have the disease (also known as a “case”), identifying others that may have had close contact with the case, and giving those close contacts guidance on how to stay safe and healthy. It has been done for decades to slow the spread of infectious diseases and is a great tool to track COVID-19 infections to protect communities.

“Our goal is to contact new cases and close contacts within 24-hours of the case being identified,” shared Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Contact tracing is a critical step to identify close contacts, help provide accurate information and slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. All information is confidential and judge free. Help us by doing your part to slow the spread.”

Today we are reporting case investigation information for 6 confirmed COVID-19 cases. All 6 cases are being reported in our jurisdiction. The following information is from case investigations completed between September 15th – 16th.

- 5 of the 6 cases are primary residents
- 1 of the 6 cases are non-residents, but are being counted here because: (1) they are staying at a second/summer home in our jurisdiction, (2) a long-term stay in our jurisdiction, or (3) in our jurisdiction prior to testing, and while quarantined and recovering
- Age:
 - 20-29 years – 2 cases
 - 30-39 years – 1 case
 - 40-49 years – 1 case
 - 50-59 years – 2 cases
- Symptomatic: 5 cases; Asymptomatic: 1 case
- 1 case linked to travel either into or out of the area as reported during their case investigation
- Over 18 total close contacts identified, notified, and instructed to quarantine

During case investigations, the following locations were identified as potential low-risk, public exposure site.

- Aldi, Petoskey on September 8th from 11:00 – 12:00 pm
- Pet Supply Plus, Petoskey on September 8th from 4:00 – 5:00 pm
- Bath and Body Works, Gaylord on September 12th from 4:00 – 5:00 pm

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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- Glik's, Gaylord on September 12th from 4:00 – 5:00 pm
- Kohls, Gaylord on September 12th from 4:00 – 5:00 pm
- Culvers, Gaylord on September 12th from 5:00 – 6:00 pm
- Meijer, Petoskey on September 13th from 12:00 – 12:30 pm
- North Perk Coffee, Petoskey on September 13th from 1:00 – 1:30 pm

The above locations have been contacted and is working with the health department to ensure their employees and customers are safe. If you have questions about testing or about your potential exposure, please call the health department at 1-800-432-4121.

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 58, Charlevoix – 83, Emmet – 135, Otsego – 140
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 40, Charlevoix – 52, Emmet – 85, Otsego – 105
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 3, Emmet – 4, Otsego – 11.

The State of Michigan has reported 113,863 cases and 6,623 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](#). To locate a testing facility, visit the [Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder website](#). To track the risk levels of COVID-19 pandemic indicators, visit the [MI Safe Start Map website](#).

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