



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

September 18, 2020

Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 1 new confirmed case in Otsego county. Case investigation and contact tracing are in progress, and relevant information will be shared when it is available.

With the fall season upon us, we want to remind residents to continue taking all necessary safety precautions while enjoying the fall festivities in our region. Earlier this month, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) reminded the state's U-pick, corn mazes and other agri-tourism operations opening up to implement and follow plans to protect themselves and their customers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A couple of key items to note, with the full list available [online](#):

- U-pick and agri-tourism operations must screen staff daily for symptoms and those with symptoms should not be permitted to work until they subside.
- Limit in-person interaction with clients and patrons to the maximum extent possible, and bar any such interaction in which people cannot maintain six feet of distance from one another.
- Customers must take steps to maintain social distancing in sale and retail areas and in fields. Spacing out guests in U-pick areas is critical to the safety of all guests. A minimum of six feet between guests must always be maintained. This also means avoiding crowds waiting to enter sales or field areas and providing for six feet between each guest standing in any lines.
- Family units should stay together and six feet apart from others. Customers should only be accompanied with family members and should limit the numbers in their groups.

"Fall festivities can be safely enjoyed when everyone does their part to stay home if they are feeling sick, wear a mask, keep their distance, and regularly wash or sanitize their hands," shared Dr. Meyerson, Medical Director. "The fall season is important for our local agriculture businesses as their operations are a key piece in our local food supply chain, and a source of enjoyment for residents. These businesses must do their part to promote the adherence to guidance in order to protect the health and safety of the public and stay open for the season."

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 – 136, Otsego – 143
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 42, Charlevoix – 57, Emmet – 86, Otsego – 106
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 3, Emmet – 4, Otsego – 11.

The State of Michigan has reported 115,387 cases and 6,638 deaths.

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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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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