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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting reported 1 new confirmed case on Saturday, September 26th in Emmet county. On Sunday, September 27th we reported 4 new confirmed cases in Antrim (1) and Otsego (3) counties. Today we are reporting 2 new confirmed cases in Emmet county. Case investigations and contact tracing are in progress, and relevant information will be shared when it is available.

We have been receiving numerous questions about how to celebrate Halloween safely. In addition to the [MDHHS guidance](#) shared last week we have created two resources for use by our community members, one document outlines [Halloween best practices](#) and the other document shares [low and moderate risk activities](#) for you and your family to safely celebrate Halloween.

Today we are reporting case investigation information for 8 cases of COVID-19. All 8 cases are being reported in our jurisdiction. The following information is from case investigations completed between August 25th – 27th.

- 8 of the 8 cases are primary residents
- Age:
 - 13-19 years – 1 case
 - 40-49 years – 1 case
 - 50-59 years – 3 cases
 - 60-69 years – 1 case
 - 70-79 years – 2 cases
- Symptomatic: 8 cases; Asymptomatic: 0 cases
- 0 cases linked to travel either into or out of the area as reported during their case investigation
- Over 22 total close contacts identified, notified, and instructed to quarantine

During case investigations, the following location was identified as a potential low-risk, public exposure site.

- Meijer, Petoskey on September 26th from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

The business has been contacted, and they are 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.

On Friday, Governor Whitmer signed [Executive Order 2020-183](#) amending the MI Safe Start order and adjusting planned social gathering and event sizes. Indoor social gatherings or indoor organized events of 10 people or fewer continue to be permitted. There are also specific guidelines, including participant counts and capacity limits for indoor and outdoor events held at non-residential venues and these can be found [here](#).

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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“Throughout the summer months, we have been returning to “business as usual” in addition to handling all things COVID-19,” shared Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “This is true for our whole community; however, we all know that there are measures in place which require us to live in a very different way. With school, holidays, and winter either here or coming, we need to continue our mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and flu spread in our community.”

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 63, Charlevoix – 96, Emmet – 145, Otsego – 155
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 53, Charlevoix – 67, Emmet – 105, Otsego – 110
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 3, Emmet – 4, Otsego – 11.

The State of Michigan has reported 122,735 cases and 6,731 deaths; and as of September 25th, cumulative recovered cases: 95,051.

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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