

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Laurel Johnson, PIO

O: 231-347-5628

l.johnson@nwhealth.orgwww.nwhealth.org**September 29, 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.

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

- Goodwill, Petoskey on September 20th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th from 9:45 am – 6:15 pm
- Lucky's Restaurant, Gaylord on September 25th from 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- Great Clips, Petoskey on September 23rd from 10:00 – 10:30 am
- Meyer Ace Hardware, Downtown Petoskey on September 23rd from 11:30 am – 12:00 pm

The businesses have 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.

As a reminder to our communities, school related COVID cases will be included in our daily case numbers but they will not be identified as such in our updates. If deemed necessary, we will provide information in our updates if there are concerns about community exposures, just as we do for other confirmed cases. At some point, this may change if there is a need to provide school-specific information to protect the public health or if there are large enough numbers that there are no concerns about confidentiality. Resources for schools can be found [here](#).

“We knew that as people started returning to their normal routines at work and school that cases would increase because we cannot prevent cases from appearing in our schools,” stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Schools are typically not open to the general public and have records of everyone who has been in and out of their buildings. When cases appear in the schools, we work directly with the school to do their case investigation and contact tracing, and close contacts will be contacted directly by the health department.”

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 – 156
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 53, Charlevoix – 67, Emmet – 106, Otsego – 111
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 3, Emmet – 4, Otsego – 11.

The State of Michigan has reported 123,633 cases and 6,751 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.

###

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](#).

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](#).

###