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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 17 new confirmed cases in Charlevoix (5), Emmet (10), and Otsego (2) counties and reporting case investigation information for them. All 17 cases are being reported in our jurisdiction. The following information is from case investigations completed between October 2 and October 4:

- 17 of the 17 cases are primary residents
- Age:
 - 0-9 years – 1 case
 - 20-29 years – 1 case
 - 30-39 years – 1 case
 - 50-59 years – 2 cases
 - 60-69 years – 6 cases
 - 70-79 years – 3 cases
 - 80-89 years – 2 cases
 - 90-99 years- -- 1 case
- Symptomatic: 14 cases
- Over 73 total close contacts identified, notified, and instructed to quarantine

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, acknowledged today that there is a lot of uncertainty in the face of the last week's Michigan Supreme Court ruling that Governor Gretchen Whitmer exceeded her powers during the coronavirus pandemic. "We want to remind residents that the underlying issues to containing the spread of COVID-19 haven't changed. This public health emergency continues to exist even without an official declaration in place. We are still living in the midst of a global pandemic which has taken the lives of over 1 million people worldwide. In Michigan we have seen over 127,000 cases and over 6,800 deaths", she said.

" There are many legal complexities related to the Governor's Executive Orders and the ruling of the Michigan Supreme Court but while those are being sorted out, we want to implore our businesses and residents to continue to protect the community through the mitigation measures that continue to be in place," she said. "For example, masking protects those around us from our respiratory droplets, distancing of 6 feet or more protects us from close contact with someone who might not know they are infected, screening customers and employees serves to provide the safest environment for work and commerce, and adhering to gathering limits prevents rapid spread of the virus through multiple people into the community. Without a vaccine or a cure, COVID-19 continues to be a threat to our health and well-being and the only tools we have to fight it are isolation, quarantine, and these safety precautions we all can take. Although we know that the confusion around these complicated legal matters poses a risk to continued protection, we believe in the people of Northern Michigan. We have learned so much

and we have come so far together, now is the time to continue on and protect each other whether it is required by orders or not!”

Because of the recent Michigan Supreme Court ruling on the Governors executive order authority, Charlevoix County Sheriff Chuck Vondra would also like to remind people of the law, stating “Private business owners have the authority to choose to ask people to continue to wear masks while patronizing their businesses. If someone is asked to wear a mask or to leave, they must do one or the other. If the person chooses not to comply, they are subject to criminal trespass and will be prosecuted as such”.

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 63, Charlevoix – 102, Emmet – 159, Otsego – 166
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 54, Charlevoix – 71, Emmet – 110, Otsego – 122
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 4, Emmet – 4, Otsego – 12.

The State of Michigan is reporting 142,726 cases and 7,139 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.