

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Laurel Johnson, PIO

O: 231-347-5628

l.johnson@nwhealth.orgwww.nwhealth.org**October 9, 2020****Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 2 new confirmed cases 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.

- Meijer, Petoskey on October 4th from 3:30 – 4:30 pm
- Walmart, Petoskey on October 4th from 4:30 – 5:30 pm
- Walmart, Gaylord on October 4th from 12:00 – 3:00 pm
- Lowes, Gaylord on October 5th from 11:30 am – 12:00 pm
- Otsego County Sportsplex, Gaylord on October 5th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

All locations have been contacted and 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

On October 6th, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued reporting requirements for confirmed positive and probable cases in schools. The emergency order was issued under MCL 333.2253 and is in effect until lifted. Starting October 12th at 8am, the reporting requirements include:

- Upon learning that a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 is a school associated case, the local health department must, within 24 hours, notify the school to which the school associate case(s) relate, including the affected building or location and other information that may assist the School with carrying out its duties under this order.
- Within 24 hours of being notified by a local health department of school associated case(s), the School must provide public notice to the school community in a highly visible location on the School's website that covers the impacted building or location. Schools are encouraged to provide information about measures in place at the school to prevent transmission of COVID-19, as well as measures that individuals can take to prevent transmission.
- Public notice does not replace the need for direct notification to persons who were, or are suspected to have been, a close contact of school associated case(s); such notice is the responsibility of the local health department.

“We have been working directly with the schools for months to ensure their staff and students remain safe. The schools have created COVID-19 safety plans, approved by their school boards, that remain in place to ensure the health and safety is a top priority,” stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “The schools

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.

###

are working hard to keep their staff and students safe and healthy, and we will continue to work closely with them for continued compliance with the requirements.”

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 70, Charlevoix – 102, Emmet – 163, Otsego – 173
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 56, Charlevoix – 75, Emmet – 114, Otsego – 122
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 4, Emmet – 4, Otsego – 12.

The State of Michigan has reported 133,134 cases and 6,876 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](#).

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.

###