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### **Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 24 new confirmed cases in Antrim (3), Charlevoix (10), Emmet (5), and Otsego (6) counties. 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.

- Builders First Source, Petoskey on October 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm, and October 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Charlevoix Public Library, Charlevoix on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:30 – 3:45 pm

The locations above 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 1-800-432-4121.

Since October 1<sup>st</sup>, we have reported 163 confirmed cases in our four-county jurisdiction and 39 exposure sites associated with these cases. With this in mind, it is an understatement to say that case investigations are an invaluable component to limiting further spread of the virus in our area. We urge anyone that receives a telephone call from the Health Department of Northwest Michigan to please return the call promptly and comply with case investigations.

Due to the large volume of cases, case investigations and contract tracing, we ask anyone who is told that they tested positive for COVID-19 to self-isolate at home until the health department can reach you. Additionally, all household contacts should quarantine until the case investigation and contact tracing occurs. Do not go to work, school, or any other public place while you are infectious. If you are under a health department ordered quarantine, a negative test does not end the 14-day quarantine period early. You can both come down with symptoms AND infect others during the entire two-week period. Quarantine times are disease specific based upon infectious periods of the disease and transmission period. You must stay quarantined for the entire 14-day possible infectious period.

If you are not feeling well, you should stay home. If you are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please call your primary care provider or call the health department at 1-800-432-4121 to locate a testing site nearest to you.

“So, what can we do? We know what to do – past experience and emerging research shows us that the mitigation strategies we have been implementing for months are working and represent the most effective protection we have right now. The outbreaks that are being tracked across the state remind us of the risks we face when gathering,” shared Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Especially now as we have seen an uptick in cases recently, we need to remember that continuum of safe to risky and how powerful simple

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protections can be. The smaller the gathering the better, gathering outside is always better than inside, the mask on is always better than off, and 6 feet of distance is always going to help reduce our risk.”

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 99, Charlevoix – 137, Emmet – 197, Otsego – 204
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 61, Charlevoix – 89, Emmet – 129, Otsego – 144
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 4, Emmet – 4, Otsego – 12.

The State of Michigan has reported 154,688 cases and 7,147 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](#).

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