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

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 30 new confirmed cases in Antrim (6), Charlevoix (7), Emmet (7), and Otsego (10) counties. Case investigation and contact tracing are in progress, and relevant information will be shared when it is available.

Residents have expressed concern that schools are not reporting as public exposure locations. As a reminder, schools are typically not open to the general public and have records of everyone who has been in and out of their buildings. We continue to work directly with the school to do their case investigation and contact tracing, and we do not report details regarding school cases or outbreaks in our daily updates because schools tend to have a contained population and maintain records of entry into their buildings which allows us to complete case investigation and contact tracing efficiently.

“Unfortunately, we have notified an increase in cases and some school-related cases,” stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “We knew that we would eventually see cases related to the school population and our goal is to interrupt transmission as effectively as possible. To do this, we continue to work directly with schools to help slow/stop the spread through case investigation and contact tracing. Each school has [reporting requirements](#) and COVID-19 action plans in place when addressing COVID within the schools.”

We are approaching Halloween weekend and with an uptick in cases locally we want to remind residents to celebrate safely. Because traditional Halloween activities tend to occur in large groups or community settings, guidance for safer activities has been created by [MDHHS](#) and the [CDC](#). With community spread evident in our jurisdiction, continued masking, social distancing and regular handwashing are our best protection from COVID-19.

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 119, Charlevoix – 165, Emmet – 236, Otsego – 224
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 62, Charlevoix – 90, Emmet – 137, Otsego – 147
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 4, Emmet – 4, Otsego – 12.

The State of Michigan has reported 164,274 cases and 7,239 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](http://nwhealth.org).*

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