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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 47 new confirmed cases in Antrim (2), Charlevoix (12), Emmet (24), and Otsego (9) counties. Case investigation and contact tracing are in progress, and relevant information will be shared when it is available.

We have received many questions about quarantine instructions when an individual is identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19.

- Anyone with symptoms that gets tested should isolate until their test results are known. If they receive a positive test result, they should isolate for a period of 10 days from the onset of symptoms. A negative test does not end quarantine early.
- If you receive a positive test result, you should also tell your close contacts to quarantine. Close contacts include all household members and others who have been within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more, cumulatively, during the period that they were contagious. Close contacts should stay home, should not go to work or school, and should not have others visit.
- The period of quarantine is 14 days from the last date a person was exposed to a contagious person. A negative test does not end quarantine early.

Yesterday, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services revised and extended its epidemic order to contain the spread of COVID-19, as Michigan continues to see a surge in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Under the newly extended orders, MDHHS reduced the maximum gathering size from 500 persons to 50 persons for indoor gatherings such as weddings, parties, and banquets in nonresidential settings without fixed seating. Bars, restaurants, and social events not in private homes are now restricted to indoor party sizes of six people at a single table. Our region, the Traverse City region, previously had fewer restrictions due to lower COVID-19 rates but with the new orders has been moved into Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start system.

“We encourage all residents to take extra precautions every time you leave the house and this weekend if you decide to participate in Halloween activities,” states Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Every time you are around people outside your household, you are at risk of being exposed to COVID-19. We understand that the change to Phase 4 is reflective of the increasing cases and therefore risk in our area. We need to stick together and continue this hard work, taking the precautions seriously to help reduce the spread in our counties.”

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 129, Charlevoix – 195, Emmet – 303, Otsego – 253
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 62, Charlevoix – 92, Emmet – 138, Otsego – 148

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.

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- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 4, Emmet – 4, Otsego – 12. The State of Michigan has reported 174,388 cases and 7,309 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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