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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 75 new confirmed cases in Antrim (17), Charlevoix (2), Emmet (29), and Otsego (27) counties. Case investigation and contact tracing are in progress, and relevant information will be shared when it is available. 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.

MDHHS released guidance earlier this week for local health departments to realign priorities in case investigation and contact tracing as surging cases strain the public health system. They remind us that the core principles of case investigation are to:

- Ensure anyone who is positive for COVID-19 is aware of that status (through test results or symptoms/exposure)
- Educate people who have tested positive about isolation and household spread
- Identify close contacts of those who have tested positive and inform them of their need to quarantine to prevent secondary transmission
- Identify the source of exposure for those who have tested positive

The state has provided this guidance for case prioritization for counties that have more than 150 cases per million. As of today, the [MI Start Map](#) shows:

- Emmet is at 475.6 daily cases per million
- Charlevoix is at 256.1 daily cases per million
- Antrim is at 178.7 daily cases per million
- Otsego is at 445.0 daily cases per million

“Due to the surge in cases, every day we must prioritize our new cases according to these new guidelines, but our goal is to always attempt to contact all new positive cases,” stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “We continue our usual work of identifying positive cases as quickly as possible, but now we must prioritize the highest risk cases. These include cases at high risk for rapid spread or spread to those at risk for severe illness such as school staff, healthcare staff, and those living in congregate settings as well as prioritizing confirmed before probable cases. We are also using abbreviated versions of the case investigation so that isolation and quarantine can be initiated as quickly as possible, which is why we need everyone to understand and follow the instructions for isolation and quarantine even if we haven’t been able to contact you!”

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 230, Charlevoix – 299, Emmet – 623, Otsego – 438
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 72, Charlevoix – 109, Emmet – 152, Otsego – 161

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: Antrim – 1, Charlevoix – 5, Emmet – 16, Otsego – 14

The State of Michigan is reporting 236,225 cases and 7,811 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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