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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

Scheduling of future COVID-19 vaccination clinics in progress

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan and numerous partners across the region are diligently working to create multiple points of access for community members to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Providers in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties are working together on this large and complex initiative and seek the public's patience as the partners all continue to work with limited doses of the vaccine.

In the meantime, residents are asked to continue to wash their hands, properly wear a mask covering their mouth and nose, maintain a safe distance of six feet apart from others, and avoid large indoor gatherings. The health department wants residents to be reminded that testing is still available. No symptoms or doctor's order is necessary to make an appointment to be tested. Testing sites are available throughout the region. To schedule a test for COVID-19 in the four-county jurisdiction, call 1-800-432-4121.

Those interested in receiving the vaccination are required to complete the [COVID-19 Vaccine Pre-Registration Form](#) located on the health department's website. Seniors without access to the internet or other barriers may call the Senior Hotline at 231-715-5557. To avoid duplication, people are urged to access pre-registration by either completing the form **or** calling the hotline. Using either method to pre-register is acceptable and puts one in the same queue to receive a call as soon as an appointment is available. Please understand that the hotline hosts, the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan and United Way of Northwest Michigan, are working to increase their capacity to handle the increased call volume. Instead of remaining on hold, callers are urged to request a return call and they will not lose their place in the queue.

As of today, over 10,000 people have completed the online COVID-19 vaccine form, signifying their interest in receiving the vaccine. The health department is excited to know that area residents are ready to be vaccinated. However, local vaccine supply does not currently meet the demand. Residents in Phase 1B, including first responders, and fire and EMS personnel, are currently being vaccinated. While those 65 and older *are eligible* (estimated to be 24,661 people in our four-county jurisdiction, according to the U.S. Census), the health department does not have the vaccine supply available to schedule this group simultaneously at this time. While scheduling for this group has begun, the health department will schedule appointments once vaccine supply is available.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the health department has vaccinated over 1,000 people and is ramping up operations to meet demand for those who have registered to receive the vaccine. The health department

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is continually requesting additional vaccines from the state to meet the demand expressed by residents throughout the region.

“We are pleased to see the interest from our community to receive the vaccination,” said Health Officer, Lisa Peacock. “We are trying to create as many access points as possible – through health department clinics, hospitals within our region, physician offices, pharmacies, and more – and we ask for patience from the public as we work to safely assure the vaccine is administered. We want residents to know that after completing our online form we have their information, that they are on our list to be scheduled into a future clinic, and that we are working as quickly as possible to give them that dosage in their arm!”

Today the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 28 new cases: Antrim (9), Charlevoix (9), Emmet (4), Otsego (6) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (765), Charlevoix (920), Emmet (1,299), and Otsego (1,073).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (525), Charlevoix (739), Emmet (1,035) and Otsego (836).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (14), Charlevoix (10), Emmet (33), and Otsego (25).

The State of Michigan is reporting 528,306 cases and 13,533 deaths.

Stay up to date on the latest information in the Health Department of Northwest Michigan 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](#). For more information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the MDHHS [vaccine website](#) or the [CDC vaccine website](#).

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