



**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Laurel Johnson, PIO  
O: 231-347-5628  
[l.johnson@nwhealth.org](mailto:l.johnson@nwhealth.org)  
[www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org)

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

### **Flu versus COVID-19 vaccination clinics**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has long been used to administering flu vaccines and scheduling large community flu clinics across its four-county service area. However, unlike flu clinics, the department's COVID-19 vaccination clinics look quite different due to the specific requirements of the vaccine, and the necessary safety measures for administration during the continued pandemic response.

To help the community understand how a COVID-19 vaccination clinic is different than a flu clinic, the health department is sharing the following key differences.

#### **Flu vaccine and clinics**

- A large quantity of vaccine is received at one time.
- With vaccine supply known, clinics and appointments can be scheduled well in advance.
- Walk-ins are welcome, clinic dates and locations are publicized.
- Only one dose is needed per client.
- Normal refrigerated storage with routine temperature monitoring is adequate for medicine in the vaccine to remain effective.

#### **COVID-19 vaccine and clinics**

- Vaccine is ordered and received on a weekly basis, and exact allocation received isn't known ahead of time.
- Appointments are scheduled once we know the exact number of doses received for that week. While we can schedule ahead for locations and staffing, we *cannot* and *will not* schedule appointments for vaccine we do not have access to.
- *No walk-ins.* We must schedule appointments for every client, and we are not currently publicizing the dates or locations for these clinics.
- To complete the full vaccination process, every client must receive two doses of either Pfizer or Moderna.
- To remain effective, the Pfizer vaccine requires specialized storage in a deep freezer and the Moderna vaccine requires more accessible freezer storage.
- The freezer holding the Pfizer vaccine requires strict procedures for opening freezer, placing the vaccine, and retrieving vaccine and the vaccine cannot be put back into the freezer once removed. It can then be stored for 5 days in monitored refrigerated storage.

"The differences between a flu and COVID-19 clinic are tenfold," said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for the department which serves residents in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties. "There are different requirements for protection of staff, volunteers and anyone receiving the vaccine. There are

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differences in the logistics of the clinics, the number of clients we can serve, how the vaccine is handled, and so much more.”

Today the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 32 new cases in the following counties: Antrim (10), Charlevoix (7), Emmet (12), Otsego (3). As of 4 p.m. today, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (775), Charlevoix (927), Emmet (1,311), and Otsego (1,076).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (530), Charlevoix (743), Emmet (1,040) and Otsego (842).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (16), Charlevoix (10), Emmet (33), and Otsego (25).

The State of Michigan is reporting 531,004 cases and 13,672 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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