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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 vaccine clinics continue operations

Despite reduced allocations to local health departments across the state from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is still operating clinics as scheduled. This week, the health department will vaccinate over 3,000 individuals at eight clinics.

“We have quickly built local capacity through partnerships with hospitals, federally qualified health centers, volunteers, community agencies, local government, schools, and the National Guard and we stand ready to vaccinate quickly with whatever allocations we receive,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Due to the complexities outside of our control and the sheer number of people who wish to be vaccinated, we need to ask our communities to be patient. We are working through our list to schedule appointments in the order they were received. We will continue to balance the principles of equity and efficiency in our vaccination rollout to the very best of our ability,” she added.

Health department clinics are offered weekly, by appointment only. Individuals eligible for vaccination, as determined by MDHHS, are asked to complete the [COVID-19 online pre-registration form](#) on the health department’s website or call the senior hotline at 231-715-5557 if they are unable to access the form or have any other barriers to receiving the vaccination. For those calling the hotline number to get on the health department list, please know this hotline is experiencing extremely high call volume and is overwhelmed with calls. It is recommended that you request a call back when prompted instead of staying on the line.

All health department clinics - whether smaller office clinics, medium, or large community site clinics - take careful planning, strong partnerships, selfless volunteers, and hardworking health department staff to ensure that every dose is administered in the safest and most efficient way. In total, over 20 personnel are needed to operate a medium sized community clinic and vaccinate about 300-350 people. This teamwork was apparent to those attending recent clinics.

“I was so impressed with the whole (clinic) - from beginning to end,” said Shirley Roloff, 85 of Charlevoix, who received her first COVID-19 vaccination last week at a clinic held in Charlevoix. “The way it was organized was outstanding and you could see all the smiles behind masks from staff and all of us waiting for our shot,” she said.

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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Nichole Lindwall, Early On Coordinator for Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District, also complimented the health department and its partners on how well the January 14 clinic was run. "It was very well organized, moving people through the process quickly and avoiding large lines and wait times," Lindwall said. "Many volunteers were present, assisting recipients and answering questions. Our staff found the experience to be smooth, quick, and safe. The extraordinary efforts of the health department in organizing this event were evident and much appreciated."

Today, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 7 new cases: Antrim (1), Charlevoix (3), Emmet (1), and Otsego (2) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (808), Charlevoix (952), Emmet (1,346), and Otsego (1,088).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (568), Charlevoix (767), Emmet (1,071) and Otsego (871).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (17), Charlevoix (11), Emmet (33), and Otsego (25).

The State of Michigan is reporting 544,311 cases and 14,053 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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Mandy Peterson (left) and Betsey Dunkel, both Early On home visitors with Char-Em ISD, were all smiles after receiving their vaccines on January 14 at a Health Department of Northwest Michigan clinic in Charlevoix.

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