



**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**

### **About 1,700 vaccinated at clinics this weekend Residents 'grateful,' 'relieved'**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan administered the largest number of COVID-19 doses over a three-day period this weekend, vaccinating nearly 1,700 individuals at multiple sites within its jurisdiction.

In excess of 1,500 people were vaccinated Friday and Saturday at Petoskey High School in Emmet County. The two-day clinics took an army of health department staff, medics from the National Guard and dozens of community volunteers to run the well-organized event. In addition, on Sunday, health department staff and National Guard troops traveled to assisted living facilities and adult foster care homes in the jurisdiction who had not been matched with the federal pharmacy programs to vaccinate more than 160 residents and staff.

"Grateful." "Relieved." "Well organized." "Happy." These were just a few words used by community residents to describe their feelings after receiving the COVID-19 vaccination at the largest-to-date vaccination clinics hosted by the health department. Receiving vaccinations were residents 65 and older, teachers and other school personnel, as well as police, EMS and firefighters all within the Phase 1B category.

Although held in Petoskey, those receiving their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination traveled from Charlevoix, Gaylord, East Jordan and beyond and all expressed their thanks to staff and volunteers for the safe and efficient clinic operations.

"I am excited that I am on my way to being safe," said 74-year-old Linda Linklater of Charlevoix. "Even after (receiving my second dose) I plan to wear my mask and keep my distance from others," she added.

Betty Palm, 77 of Petoskey, did not feel a thing as National Guardsmen Nathan Boyer administered her shot. "I feel fabulous and I'm so grateful to everyone who is here and helping with this event," she said.

Linda Dutcher of Gaylord described her experience on Saturday as "easy and painless," while Don and Judith Caird of Petoskey were "totally impressed by the outstanding organization" that went into the clinic and how seamlessly such a large number of people safely moved through.

"We are excited and proud to have vaccinated almost 1,700 individuals this past weekend at small- and large-scale clinics. The successful clinic operations prove that we can safely vaccinate a large number of our community members once the vaccine supply becomes available to do so," said Health Officer Lisa

*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](http://nwhealth.org).*

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Peacock. Despite this success, the community is urged to continue practicing safety measures. “Unfortunately, we are experiencing a slight uptick in cases across our jurisdiction and want to remind residents 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,” she said. Testing is still available throughout the region. No symptoms or doctor’s order is necessary to make an appointment to be tested. To schedule a COVID-19 test, call 1-800-432-4121.

Based on availability of the vaccine, health department clinics are offered weekly by appointment only. Individuals eligible for vaccination, as determined by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 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. When prompted, it is recommended that you request a call back instead of staying on the line.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan reported 15 new cases on Saturday, January 23: Antrim (6), Charlevoix (6), Emmet (1), and Otsego (2) counties, and 1 COVID-19 associated death in Emmet County. On Sunday, January 24, 10 new cases were reported: Antrim (0), Charlevoix (3), Emmet (7), and Otsego (0) counties. Today, January 25, the health department is reporting 17 new cases: Antrim (9), Charlevoix (2), Emmet (5), and Otsego (1) counties.

As of 4 p.m. today, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (827), Charlevoix (964), Emmet (1,371), and Otsego (1,092).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (585), Charlevoix (776), Emmet (1,088) and Otsego (883).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (17), Charlevoix (11), Emmet (34), and Otsego (25).

The State of Michigan is reporting 551,080 cases and 14,326 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](#).

CUTLINES: While her daughter Joan Hebner (right) looks on, Harriet Kloss, 91, of Oden, receives her vaccination from Health Department of Northwest Michigan staff member Nan Graham at a large-scale clinic Saturday in Emmet County.

“I am so thankful,” said Linda Linklater, 74, of Charlevoix after receiving her COVID-19 vaccination Saturday. Linklater is shown receiving a sticker and vaccination fact sheet from volunteer Jan Mancinelli.

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