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

### **COVID-19 vaccination questions and answers for seniors**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan continues to receive questions from seniors and their loved ones regarding the status of COVID-19 vaccine administration in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties.

Currently, the health department is able to vaccinate Phase 1A, 1B, and individuals 65 and older. Vaccine eligibility is determined by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Phased vaccine eligibility, and any updates to eligibility, can be found by visiting the [MDHHS website](#). The health department's ability to vaccinate eligible individuals depends on the supply of vaccine received, which is determined by a MDHHS population-based formula. The health department continues to schedule appointments based on the amount of vaccine received each week.

Answers to the questions the health department has been receiving from residents regarding the COVID-19 vaccine process are as follows:

#### **Where can I find up-to-date information on upcoming COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties?**

The most current information on vaccine clinics and other important COVID-19 information is available at [www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org) or on the Health Department of Northwest Michigan [Facebook page](#). We are also partnering with many organizations, including the Area Agency on Aging and local Commissions on Aging and Senior Centers, to help reach out to our senior population.

#### **How do I pre-register for a Health Department of Northwest Michigan vaccination clinic?**

For those 65 and older, the most effective way to pre-register for a vaccination clinic is online at [www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org). Click on the Pre-Registration Form for Priority Group 1A and 1B banner on the home page. In the form, enter your name, phone number, email address, and then click submit. Please double check to make sure everything you enter is accurate before submitting. We understand you may not have a computer or internet, so we are offering a Senior Hotline at 231-715-5557. Due to high call volume, you may not get through immediately. You can pre-register by completing the online form or calling the hotline.

#### **I have a family/friend/neighbor who does not have computer access. How can I help them sign up?**

Other family members, friends and neighbors may sign up a senior using the steps outlined above. In addition, we have created a flyer outlining the step-by-step process. The flyer is available through this [link](#) and will soon be available at local Commissions on Aging and senior centers.

*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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### **How do I know if the health department received my pre-registration?**

Once you complete the pre-registration form online and click submit, you will receive a thank you message that confirms you are on the health department list for vaccination. Once you receive the thank you message, you are in the pre-registration queue and will be contacted for an appointment as soon as vaccine supply allows. A confirmation email will also be sent to the email address used to complete the form. Please check your junk or spam folders as a confirmation may be found there. If you registered through the Senior Hotline, or if a friend or neighbor completed the form for you, and email will be sent to the email address used to complete the form. If no email address was entered, you will receive a phone call when we can schedule your vaccination appointment.

### **How long will it take before I receive an appointment?**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is working diligently to get everyone who pre-registered an appointment for vaccination. We are also scheduling only those eligible to be covered according to state guidelines. The number of appointments we can schedule is based on how many vaccines we receive. It may take weeks before you receive an email or phone call to schedule your vaccination appointment. Again, please regularly check your spam or junk folders or have your friend or family member notify you when he/she receives the email appointment schedule. Due to limited appointments, we ask that you try to keep your scheduled appointment.

“We continue to work closely with the local agencies that support our aging population, as we know not everyone in this population has access to internet and our information,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “The support of the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan, Commissions on Aging, United Way, and other local agencies are helping us to reach these vulnerable populations. We are advocating for our area residents to receive more vaccine to continue increasing our vaccine capacity, and we appreciate the continued patience and support of our communities,” she added.

Today the health department is reporting 15 new cases: Antrim (4), Charlevoix (5), 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 (831), Charlevoix (969), Emmet (1,376), and Otsego (1,093).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (591), Charlevoix (778), Emmet (1,092) and Otsego (894).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (17), Charlevoix (11), Emmet (34), and Otsego (25).

The State of Michigan is reporting 552,556 cases and 14,405 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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