

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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l.johnson@nwhealth.orgwww.nwhealth.org**January 28, 2021****Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update****Nearly 5,000 COVID-19 doses administered****Health official: 'Every dose is a win'**

Despite continued limited allocations of vaccine across northern Michigan, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan has administered more than 5,500 COVID-19 vaccinations to residents across its four-county jurisdiction since mid-December.

"Every dose is a win and will potentially save a life. We can't lose focus and optimism as we face the inherent challenges of this process," said Health Officer Lisa Peacock.

Peacock recognized that COVID-19 fatigue is being felt by everyone across the region. "All of us want to get back to normal as soon as possible. We want to gather and hug our family and friends again," she said. "The hope and relief that we see on the faces of those we vaccinate at our clinics is a reward that can't be adequately described through words. We have seen tears of joy flowing from the eyes of grandparents who can look forward to holding their grandchildren again and have heard the relief expressed by school administrators whose teachers can look forward to the day they can teach without fear. We want the community to know that we care about each and every citizen and we won't stop until every person who wants to be vaccinated has the opportunity."

The biggest challenge the health department currently faces remains limited and unpredictable vaccine allocations, Peacock said, adding she is strongly advocating for an increased and predictable supply of vaccine. "Until then however, we need to ask for the patience of the community," she said.

Vaccination of the current priority groups of adults 65+ and approved frontline essential workers is estimated to continue through mid-summer. 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.

After completing the health department online COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration form, individuals should receive an e-mail confirmation indicating their information has been collected and is in the queue. Individuals will be contacted by e-mail, or phone if no e-mail was provided, as soon as vaccine supply and appointments are available. Prior to submitting the form, residents should double check that they have entered their email correctly to ensure the confirmation email is received. Should an

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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individual's confirmation email or the email to schedule their appointment be undeliverable, health department staff will call the individual when an appointment is available.

Today the health department is reporting 20 new cases: Antrim (6), Charlevoix (6), Emmet (7), 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 (847), Charlevoix (982), Emmet (1,391), and Otsego (1,099).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (603), Charlevoix (792), Emmet (1,104) and Otsego (903).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (17), Charlevoix (11), Emmet (34), and Otsego (25).

The State of Michigan is reporting 556,109 cases and 14,491 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:

77-year-old Susan Bergmann of Charlevoix (middle) recently received a COVID-19 vaccination from Health Department of Northwest Michigan registered nurse Naomi Joy while Bergmann's sister, Vera Arnott of East Jordan, looks on.

Beth White, a substitute teacher with the Public Schools of Petoskey, was "elated" to receive her COVID-19 vaccination recently from Vanessa Mushlock, RN, Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

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