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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

Health officials: Continue precautions with indoor dining opening

Beginning today, Feb. 1, indoor dining is allowed in restaurants across northern Michigan and the state. While officials with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan are pleased restaurants are opening, they urge residents to use precautions while dining indoors.

“We are happy that we’ll be able to support our local restaurants with indoor dining, yet we must continue to be cautious about making sure we are properly protecting our health and safety,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

Among the indoor dining guidelines are:

- Tables of six people or less
- Six feet between tables
- Limit of 25 percent capacity and no more than 100 people
- Bars and restaurants must close by 10 p.m.
- Contact information must be collected for contact tracing purposes

Patrons must wear a mask at all times in a restaurant except when eating or drinking.

“Even with these requirements, indoor dining is associated with higher risk for spread,” Peacock said. “To reduce your risk you may want to consider choosing takeout, delivery or outdoor dining; dine only with members of your household; and look for the MI COVID-19 Safer Dining logo that certifies bars and restaurants have taken extra steps to make dining safer,” she added.

To support local businesses, the health department has released an updated [Restaurant Toolkit](#), which includes frequently asked questions and a patron sign-in sheet for contact tracing purposes. A full list of indoor dining guidelines and more information on the MI COVID-19 Safer Dining certification is available [here](#).

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan reported 10 new cases on Saturday, January 30: Antrim (2), Charlevoix (2), Emmet (4), and Otsego (2) counties. On Sunday, January 31, 11 new cases were reported: Antrim (1), Charlevoix (3), Emmet (2), and Otsego (5) counties. Today, February 1, the health department is reporting 13 new cases: Antrim (0), Charlevoix (6), Emmet (6), 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 (853), Charlevoix (997), Emmet (1,409), and Otsego (1,108).

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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- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (635), Charlevoix (813), Emmet (1,127) and Otsego (923).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (17), Charlevoix (11), Emmet (34), and Otsego (25).

The State of Michigan is reporting 561,307 cases and 14,609 deaths. As of January 29, 2021, cumulative recovered cases statewide are 481,801.

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](#).

CUTLINE:

Patrons visiting area restaurants and choosing to dine indoors may look for the MI COVID-19 Safer Dining logo which certifies that bars and restaurants have taken extra steps to make dining safer.



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