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Scheduling breach forces Feb. 5 Antrim County COVID-19 clinic cancelation

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan was forced to cancel one clinic this week because an online scheduling link was shared. The breach by someone outside of the health department allowed people to register out-of-turn for the vaccination clinic on February 5 in Antrim County.

Personal medical records and other information were not compromised or accessed.

“This is extremely regrettable and is forcing us to cancel all our appointments for this February 5 clinic and reschedule them at a later date,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “This breach is requiring us to postpone appointments for those who did legitimately sign up and making us pull valuable resources to address this issue.”

About 280 of the 300 appointment slots available were filled by residents from neighboring counties or even from across the state of Michigan, Peacock said.

The health department advises the public to not share any scheduling links with friends, family, or acquaintances. The COVID-19 vaccine doses are limited, and appointments are scheduled to match availability.

Residents in the Health Department of Northwest Michigan’s service area of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet or Otsego counties who would like to pre-register for scheduling when vaccine and appointments are available, can access that form at www.nwhealth.org. If you reside in another county, please visit your local health department’s website for information on their scheduling process. If you have questions or concerns, please submit them via email to PublicHealthInfoLine@nwhealth.org.

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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