

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Laurel Johnson, PIO

O: 231-347-5628

l.johnson@nwhealth.orgwww.nwhealth.org**February 11, 2021****Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update****CDC introduces updated guidance on quarantine after vaccination**

On February 10, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its clinical considerations for mRNA vaccines. Those updates including quarantine recommendations for those who completed their COVID-19 vaccine series. At this time, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) guidance has not yet been updated. It is likely that MDHHS will adopt the updated guidelines from the CDC, and at that time the local health department will make necessary adjustments to protocols and guidance.

According to the newly released CDC guidelines, vaccinated persons with an exposure to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case will likely be allowed to be exempted from quarantine for an approved period of time if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated. Individuals are fully vaccinated when 2 or more weeks have passed since receiving their second dose in a 2-dose series, OR 2 or more weeks have passed since receiving one dose of a single-dose vaccine. Single-dose COVID-19 vaccines have not been approved for use in the U.S. yet.
- Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series. After 3 months following their last dose, individuals should continue to quarantine as instructed.
- Have remained asymptomatic since their COVID-19 exposure.
- Vaccinated individuals who become infected may have milder symptoms but would still be contagious. They should still self-monitor for 14 days following exposure and if they experience ANY (even mild) symptoms, they should get tested and isolate pending results.

An exception to these guidelines includes the following:

- Vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare and other congregate care settings should continue to quarantine following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 regardless of symptom status to prevent further spread.

Vaccinated persons should continue to follow current guidance to protect themselves and others, including wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often, following CDC travel guidance, and following any applicable workplace or school guidance.

“The updated guidance from the CDC does not give people a free pass. Individuals who have been fully vaccinated should still be cautious and when symptomatic should get tested as we know that there is no vaccine that is 100% effective,” said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director. “Vaccinated people should continue to follow all protective measures in the community, at work and while traveling to protect themselves and others.”

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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Today, February 11, the health department is reporting 7 new cases: Antrim (4), Charlevoix (1), Emmet (1), and Otsego (1) counties. The health department is also reporting one new death in Emmet County. As of 4 p.m. today, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (888), Charlevoix (1,022), Emmet (1,456), and Otsego (1,127).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (741), Charlevoix (873), Emmet (1,205) and Otsego (962).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (19), Charlevoix (11), Emmet (36), and Otsego (25).

The State of Michigan is reporting 572,179 cases and 15,052 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](#).