



**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Laurel Johnson, PIO  
O: 231-347-5628  
[l.johnson@nwhealth.org](mailto:l.johnson@nwhealth.org)  
[www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org)

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

### **State Health Department updates prioritization guidance for vaccination**

On February 15, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) revised its prioritization guidance for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Changes to the MDHHS prioritization guidance include:

- Starting immediately, mortuary service workers can be vaccinated as part of Phase 1A Priority Three Group A as workers who have direct patient contact and conduct high risk procedures (e.g., dentists, endoscopy, dialysis, mortuary services). This group is being reclassified to be more consistent with federal guidelines.
- On March 1, MDHHS will expand vaccine eligibility to workers in food processing and agricultural settings. The workers included in this new portion of Phase 1B are at substantially higher risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 because their work duties must be performed on site and involve being in close proximity (i.e., within 6 feet) to coworkers.
- MDHHS is in the process of developing further information including frequently asked questions around these newly prioritized groups. At this point, this group does not include restaurant or grocery workers.

Local vaccinations will continue as vaccine allocation allows. To pre-register for vaccination with the health department click [here](#). To view the updated MDHHS prioritization guidance and vaccination implementation schedule click [here](#).

“This is an exciting time for our staff and residents as many feel hope being reignited in our communities,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Although we know it is hard to continue to be patient while waiting for our turn to be vaccinated, we all must remain vigilant and protect ourselves, our loved ones and our community,” she said.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has administered over 11,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccination. The department is steadfast in achieving the statewide goal of vaccinating 70% of residents 16 and older as soon as possible and administering at least 90% of its weekly vaccine allocation. Additional vaccination information for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan can be found by visiting the [vaccination dashboard](#).

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan reported the following COVID-19 case information from February 13-16.

- Saturday, February 13: 13 new cases in Antrim (5), Charlevoix (1), Emmet (3), and Otsego (4) counties.

*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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- Sunday, February 14: 11 new cases in Antrim (1), Charlevoix (0), Emmet (1), and Otsego (9) counties.
- Monday, February 15: 9 new cases in Antrim (3), Charlevoix (1), Emmet (4), and Otsego (1) counties.
- Tuesday, February 16: 4 new cases in Antrim (0), Charlevoix (2), Emmet (1), and Otsego (1) counties, and 1 new COVID-19 associated death in Charlevoix county.

As of 4 p.m. today, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (901), Charlevoix (1,027), Emmet (1,474), and Otsego (1,143).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (770), Charlevoix (897), Emmet (1,227) and Otsego (970).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (19), Charlevoix (12), Emmet (36), and Otsego (25).

The State of Michigan is reporting 576,264 cases and 15,177 deaths. As of February 12, 2021, cumulative recovered cases statewide are 517,991.

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](#).