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**March 3, 2021**

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

**Health Department gearing up for expanded eligibility  
Clinics for people 50+ with medical conditions will be scheduled**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is gearing up to begin offering vaccination clinics for Michiganders age 50 and older with medical conditions or disabilities and caregiver families and guardians who care for children with special health care needs. The expanded eligibility is effective Monday, March 8.

“We are excited to help our communities bring a quicker end to the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccinate more people,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Please know that it will take time for us to coordinate making appointments for those currently on our waiting list and these new groups who will be signing up.”

It is important to note that, while supplies are increasing so are the number of individuals eligible to receive the vaccine. Additionally, there remains a limited amount of vaccine available, so there may be a wait period for appointments.

To help guide residents as they sign up for an appointment, the health department is revising its registration process for COVID-19 vaccination clinics through a software program called Patient Education Genius (PEG). Individuals who pre-registered using the health departments initial online form *will not* lose their place in line to receive the vaccine. Anyone who pre-registered *does* not need to complete a new form on the health department’s website but will receive an email or text message from PEG which will ask them to provide updated information. The purpose of collecting this updated information is to align with the updated eligibility definitions. The PEG system will be used to do the following:

- Send the current list of pre-registrants an email to collect more information, and update an individual’s priority group and eligibility status.
- Request vaccination status in order to update our list to include only those still needing appointments.
- Provide a tool for future communications, as needed.
- Provide for additional security in the scheduling process.

Today, March 3, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 32 new cases: Antrim (11), Charlevoix (6), Emmet (4), and Otsego (11) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (966), Charlevoix (1,056), Emmet (1,551), and Otsego (1,181).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (840), Charlevoix (964), Emmet (1,317) and Otsego (1,007).

*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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- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (20), Charlevoix (13), Emmet (38), and Otsego (27).

The State of Michigan is reporting 591,753 cases and 15,563 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](#).