



MEDIA CONTACT:
Laurel Johnson, PIO
O: 231-347-5628
l.johnson@nwhealth.org
www.nwhealth.org

March 5, 2021

Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

School-aged COVID cases rising Health Department: be vigilant in mask wearing, distancing

As the State of Michigan has changed [capacity limitations](#) at indoor facilities to allow larger gatherings, it is critical to continue to mask up and socially distance as venues reopen.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan, and surrounding regions, is seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases, particularly among the school-aged population.

Earlier this week, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) updated two of its epidemic orders, allowing for increased capacity limits at various venues, larger residential and nonresidential gatherings and expanded visitation opportunities at residential care facilities. Changes are designed to balance reopening while controlling the spread of COVID-19 and save Michiganders' lives.

“Although progress has been made in reduction of hospitalizations, everyone should continue to do important things like wearing a mask, washing hands, avoiding large gatherings and getting one of the three safe and effective vaccines when it becomes available to you,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer.

In the last 13 days, the health department has reported 239 cases of COVID-19. Information related to these cases includes:

- 24.6% of the cases were 13-19 years old.
- 89.7% of all cases were symptomatic.
- 27.6% of all cases reported unknown sources of infection.

The MDHHS capacity changes that went into effect March 2 include:

- Restaurants and bars are allowed to be at 50% capacity up to 100 people. Tables must be six feet apart with no more than six people per table. There is now an 11 p.m. curfew.
- Indoor non-residential gatherings where people interact across households are permitted up to 25 people, allowing public meetings and other small indoor gatherings to resume.
- Outdoor non-residential gatherings where people interact across households are permitted up to 300, allowing larger outdoor events to resume.
- Indoor entertainment venues are allowed to be at 50% capacity, up to 300 people.
- Exercise facilities are allowed to be at 30% capacity with restrictions on distancing and mask requirements.
- Retail is allowed to be at 50% capacity.
- Casinos are allowed to be at 30% capacity.

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.

###

- Indoor stadiums and arenas are allowed have 375 if seating capacity is under 10,000; 750 if seating capacity is over 10,000.
- Outdoor entertainment and recreational facilities may host up to 1,000 patrons.

Indoor residential gatherings are now limited to 15 people from three households, while outdoor residential gatherings can include up to 50 people.

Today, March 5, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 17 new cases: Antrim (5), Charlevoix (4), Emmet (3), and Otsego (5) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (979), Charlevoix (1,065), Emmet (1,557), and Otsego (1,196).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (851), Charlevoix (967), Emmet (1,333) and Otsego (1,010).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (20), Charlevoix (13), Emmet (38), and Otsego (27).

The State of Michigan is reporting 594,765 cases and 15,610 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](#).