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

### **Clinics planned across health department jurisdiction this week**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan plans to hold COVID-19 vaccination clinics in each of its four counties and administer almost 4,000 first and second doses this week. Appointments have been scheduled with eligible residents, including those 50 and older with medical conditions or disabilities and caregiver families and guardians who care for children with special health care needs, an eligibility category that opened today, March 8.

First dose clinics, where more than 1,900 vaccines will be administered, are scheduled for Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties. Additionally, more than 2,000 second doses will be administered at clinics in each of the four counties within the health department jurisdiction.

“This schedule reflects progress toward our goal of having regularly scheduled clinics in each county each week,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer.

Another exciting development is the receipt of the first allocation of Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine, which is a single-dose series and can be stored at refrigerated temperatures.

“This vaccine option allows for some additional creativity in developing strategies to reach additional people,” Peacock noted. “We are hoping one of those strategies can be redistributing some of this vaccine to local partners and eligible providers not currently offering the vaccine to create more access points for our residents. We anticipate using the single dose Janssen vaccination for harder to reach populations while continuing to use Pfizer and Moderna for our community clinics,” she said.

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 residents may experience a wait period for appointments.

To help guide residents as they sign up for an appointment, the health department is updated its registration process for COVID-19 vaccination clinics through a software program called Patient Education Genius (PEG). Individuals who pre-registered using the health department’s initial online form *will not* lose their place in line to receive the vaccine. Those who have already pre-registered will receive an email or text message from PEG asking 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.

*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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- 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.

It is critical that anyone who has pre-registered on the health department's website frequently check their email, including junk and spam folders, for emails received from COVID19vaccination@nwhealth.org.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan reported 14 new cases on Saturday, March 6: Antrim (1), Charlevoix (2), Emmet (3), and Otsego (8) counties. On Sunday, March 7, 10 new cases were reported: Antrim (1), Charlevoix (2), Emmet (0), and Otsego (7) counties. Today, Monday, March 8, 12 new cases were reported: Antrim (3), Charlevoix (2), Emmet (-1), and Otsego (7) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (984), Charlevoix (1,071), Emmet (1,559), and Otsego (1,218).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (857), Charlevoix (969), Emmet (1,344) and Otsego (1,013).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (20), Charlevoix (13), Emmet (38), and Otsego (27).

The State of Michigan is reporting 598,014 cases and 15,670 deaths. As of March 5, cumulative recovered cases statewide are 549,881.

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](#).