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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

**New guidelines for fully vaccinated people ‘encouraging’
- residents asked to continue masking in public settings**

Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new guidelines for people who have been fully vaccinated, it should not change how all of us act when we are out in the general public.

The CDC guidelines provide hope, officials with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan note. Yet, until community immunity has been obtained with the majority of the public fully vaccinated, we all still need to take precautionary measures in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.

“The guidelines for fully vaccinated persons are really encouraging,” said Josh Meyerson, Medical Director for the Health Department. “For some of us, it means being able to spend time with a close relative or friend indoors after almost a year of isolation. As we continue to get as many people protected through vaccination as we can each week, it means that more people will be able to safely gather together again,” said Dr. Meyerson.

People are considered fully vaccinated:

- two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine

If it has been less than two weeks since your shot, or if you still need to get your second dose, you are NOT fully protected. Keep taking all [prevention steps](#) until you are fully vaccinated, health officials say.

The following updated CDC recommendations apply to non-healthcare settings.

Fully vaccinated people now can:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic.

Fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people should continue to:

- Take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing.
- Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at [increased risk for severe COVID-19](#) disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease.
- Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households.

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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- Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings.
- Get tested if experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers. You should continue to wear a mask in workplace settings.
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations.

Today, March 10, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 32 new cases: Antrim (3), Charlevoix (4), Emmet (4), and Otsego (21) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (990), Charlevoix (1,073), Emmet (1,565), and Otsego (1,257).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (863), Charlevoix (973), Emmet (1,347) and Otsego (1,017).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (20), Charlevoix (13), Emmet (38), and Otsego (27).

The State of Michigan is reporting 601,284 cases and 15,706 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](#).