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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

Over 27,000 doses of hope administered, variant identified reiterates need for continued caution

Since December 2020, when COVID-19 vaccination clinics began, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan has administered 27,357 total doses of the vaccine, and over 3.59 million doses have been administered in the state of Michigan.

As of March 21, the health department's vaccination status is as follows:

- Number of vaccine doses administered last week (March 15-21): 2,956 doses.
- Number of vaccine doses allocated for this week: 3,419 doses.
- Percent of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego county residents who have received their first or initial dose: 35.9%.
- Percent of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego county residents 65 and older who have received their first or initial dose: 67.9%.

For additional vaccine administration data, please visit our [COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#). The health department's vaccine dashboard is updated weekly on Tuesdays.

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer, for the health department's jurisdiction of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties, enthusiastically noted that appointments are currently being scheduled for individuals 50 and older, and eligible essential workers.

"We continue to reach milestones worth celebrating in our vaccination efforts," said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for the health department. "With vaccine allocations more stable we have been able to plan weekly first and second doses clinics in all four counties and with the addition of the Janssen vaccine, with less storage and handling needs, we are better able to adapt to meet the unique needs of special populations in our jurisdiction," she added.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan was notified today of two cases of the B.1.1.7 COVID-19 variant in Otsego County. The cases were identified through active surveillance by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Case investigation and contact tracing have been completed, and the individuals are following isolation guidance. Research shows that the B.1.1.7 variant is more easily spread than other variants. Based on the latest evidence, current tests and vaccines available for COVID-19 work effectively against this variant.

"The identification of this variant strain in another northern Michigan county reminds us that we must continue to take steps to slow the spread of COVID-19. Anyone who has any symptoms or with known

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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exposure to COVID-19 should get tested and quarantine themselves,” said Peacock. “Residents should register for vaccination and schedule their appointment as soon as they are able. We know that fully vaccinated individuals, are unlikely to get the virus. Even in the rare occasion they are diagnosed with the virus, they typically experience less severe disease” she added.

Today, March 23, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 54 new cases: Antrim (19) Charlevoix (9), Emmet (7), and Otsego (19) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,098), Charlevoix (1,147), Emmet (1,629), and Otsego (1,470).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (902), Charlevoix (991), Emmet (1,399), and Otsego (1,049).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (20), Charlevoix (13), Emmet (38), and Otsego (28).

The State of Michigan is reporting 633,191 cases and 15,919 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](#).