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

### **Health officials: Registration open for everyone 16 and older to sign up for COVID vaccine**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan wants area residents to know if you have not registered or been vaccinated yet, now is the time to pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine! Everyone 16 and older is encouraged to sign up as clinic appointments will be available starting next week.

“We will continue to prioritize people 50 and older, high-risk populations, and essential front-line workers, but we really want to encourage everyone – and I mean everyone! - to pre-register starting now for the COVID-19 vaccine,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “If you haven’t gotten the vaccine, now is the time to sign up,” she added.

Peacock noted that with the number of cases, outbreaks, and hospitalizations rising, there is something every one of us can do. “We can get vaccinated,” she said. “And, if we have done that already, then we can share our knowledge and experience with family and friends who may be hesitant. We can assist someone to schedule an appointment or offer them a ride so they can get their vaccination. We can remind everyone of the freedoms that come with being vaccinated such as being able to gather in homes without a mask and not having to quarantine. We can remind ourselves that widespread vaccination coverage in our communities is the key to driving this virus down. We have to carry the torch the rest of the way so that our businesses can stay open, so our kids can receive a quality education and experience milestones, and so that we can all begin to recover and heal,” Peacock said.

A steady and reliable supply of vaccines has allowed the health department to hold weekly clinics in each of its four counties. To sign up for vaccination at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan:

- Visit [www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org).
- On the main page, click on the COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration link for all priority groups to complete the pre-registration form.
- An automatic email or text will confirm your submission.
- As appointments become available, a text message or an email will be sent to you with information about how to schedule an appointment. Please monitor your text messages and email inboxes, including spam/junk mailbox for your confirmation and scheduling messages.
- Only the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for 16- and 17-year-olds so it is essential to properly fill in the date of birth fields in the pre-registration form for minors so that we can plan for vaccine as well as parent permission.

The type of vaccine available at each health department clinic depends on availability, and clients are not able to select their preferred vaccine (with the exception of minors 16 or 17 years of age who will be

*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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registered for a Pfizer vaccination clinic). Anyone with barriers to internet access or other constraints such as transportation can call 2-1-1, the Aging Hotline at 231-715-5557, or their local Commission on Aging or Senior Center.

Today, March 25, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 45 new cases: Antrim (15) Charlevoix (2), Emmet (10), and Otsego (18) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,129), Charlevoix (1,155), Emmet (1,648), and Otsego (1,512).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (907), Charlevoix (997), Emmet (1,421), and Otsego (1,052).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (20), Charlevoix (13), Emmet (38), and Otsego (28).

The State of Michigan is reporting 642,869 cases and 15,984 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](#).