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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 vaccination frequently asked questions

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has put together a series of frequently asked questions and answers for community residents.

Who is eligible to register for the COVID-19 vaccine and how do I register myself or my minor child who is 16 or 17?

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has opened pre-registration for the COVID-19 vaccine to all residents 16 and older in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties. To sign up for vaccination at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan:

- Visit 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.

Do you have appointments available?

Yes. Clinics are held in locations in each of our four counties and we typically have appointments available within a week or two-week time period.

I have no access to the internet or need transportation assistance to get to a clinic. Where do I go for help?

A family member or friend can help register anyone with a barrier to online registration. Remember to put the registrant's date of birth or other personal information; however, you can list your phone number or email address. In addition, 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.

May I select which type of vaccine I want?

No. 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 registered for a Pfizer vaccination clinic).

I received my first vaccination at a non-health department clinic. Can I get my second dose with the health department?

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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If you received your first dose from another provider, we ask that you return to the same provider for your second dose as they will be allocated the second dose for you.

My child is interested in getting vaccinated, what is the process to register him/her?

Currently, individuals aged 16-17 are eligible for vaccination with the Pfizer vaccine only. The minor or their parent/guardian can register on the health department form [here](#). Please be reminded that if a parent/guardian completes the form on behalf of their child they must use their child's information to ensure their child is correctly registered.

What is the process for a minor getting vaccinated at your clinic?

Those under 18 getting vaccinated *must* attend the vaccination clinic with their parent/guardian. Similar to other vaccinations and clinics, the parent/guardian must be present to provide consent for the vaccination unless other arrangements have been made.

What does it mean to be fully vaccinated?

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated:

- two weeks after their second dose in a two-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 – and even afterwards - including wearing a mask, keeping a 6-foot distance from others, and regularly washing or sanitizing your hands.

What are the guidelines for a screening mammogram before or after COVID-19 vaccination?

Foremost, speak to your health care provider about your personal health status. According to the [Society of Breast Imaging \(SBI\)](#), all vaccines can result in temporary lymphadenopathy (swollen/enlarged lymph nodes); however, reports indicate higher rates of axillary and cervical lymphadenopathy following Moderna COVID-19 vaccination (11% after 1st dose, 16% after 2nd dose) with lesser numbers reported following Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination. SBI recommends:

- Do not delay any diagnostic imaging regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.
- When possible, schedule screening mammography before the first dose or 4-6 weeks after the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine. However, do not delay screening mammogram if this will push the patient beyond 14 months since the last screening mammogram.

Does the health department have any recommendations about traveling during spring break?

Yes. Based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan put together a series of recommendations. To access the guidelines, click [here](#).

Today, March 26, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting 44 new cases: Antrim (12) Charlevoix (3), Emmet (7), and Otsego (22) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,141), Charlevoix (1,158), Emmet (1,655), and Otsego (1,534).

- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (917), Charlevoix (999), Emmet (1,429), and Otsego (1,053).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (20), Charlevoix (13), Emmet (38), and Otsego (28).

The State of Michigan is reporting 647,899 cases and 16,004 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](#).