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

**Health officials plead ‘do your part to stop the spread’**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is continuing to offer COVID-19 vaccination clinics to give residents across its region the opportunity to get vaccinated. At the same time, health officials are asking residents to “do your part to help stop the spread.”

In March, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan saw a significant increase in COVID-19 cases, reporting 1,056 new cases last month compared to 345 new cases in February, while hospitalizations remained steady. The largest number of identified cases occurred in the 13-19 age group (19.8% of cases). To view more information about COVID-19 cases reported this past month in the health department’s four county jurisdiction, visit our [COVID-19 data website](#) to view March 2021 county profiles. County profiles can be found below the vaccination and case dashboards.

“We are asking everyone to do their part to curb this spike of COVID-19 cases in our community,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “We are all tired of hearing about the mitigation measures we should be doing – washing our hands, wearing a mask covering our mouth and nose, and staying six feet away from others in tight spaces – but they work, and we must continue these practices. And, most importantly, get vaccinated as soon as you can,” she said.

The health department hosts COVID-19 vaccination clinics weekly in each of its four-county jurisdiction. To locate and register for a clinic, visit [www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org). Registrants are typically notified within 7-10 days of an available appointment near them. A list of other providers throughout the region is available through this [link](#) or by visiting [www.vaccinefinder.org](http://www.vaccinefinder.org).

In addition, the health department is urging anyone who thinks they may have been exposed to the virus to get tested. The health department offers free testing by appointment in each of its counties. No symptoms or doctor’s order is necessary. To find and schedule a free testing appointment, call 1-800-432-4121.

Anyone who receives a positive COVID-19 test result, should [isolate](#) for a minimum of 10 days from the start of their symptom(s) or positive test date if they didn’t have symptoms. In addition, notify your close contacts that they may have been exposed and encourage them to [quarantine](#) for 14 days from their last date of contact with you. If you know you are a close contact, start self-quarantine immediately. You may receive a call or a text message to get your case investigation details. Please answer your phone, even if it’s from an unknown number, since it could be the health department calling to complete your case investigation.

In order to help school leaders keep their students and staff safe as they return from Spring Break, the health department provided an updated [COVID-19 Return to School Toolkit](#). The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services toolkit contains a school safety checklist, screening steps for staff and students, and prevention tips, among other useful information.

*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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Today, April 6, 81 new cases were reported: Antrim (21), Charlevoix (16), Emmet (26), and Otsego (18) counties. Today we are reporting 1 new COVID-19 associated death in Antrim county. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,270), Charlevoix (1,250), Emmet (1,826), and Otsego (1,793).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (972), Charlevoix (1,031), Emmet (1,455), and Otsego (1,163).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (21), Charlevoix (13), Emmet (39), and Otsego (28).

The State of Michigan is reporting 707,463 cases and 16,297 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](#).