



MEDIA CONTACT:
Laurel Johnson, PIO
O: 231-347-5628
l.johnson@nwhealth.org
www.nwhealth.org

April 15, 2021

Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

Health Officer speaks at statewide news conference to highlight partnerships, progress in 'shots in arms'

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for both the Health Department of Northwest Michigan and the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, was one of seven featured speakers at a statewide news conference held this morning by the Protect Michigan Commission.

The Protect Michigan Commission, comprised of a diverse group of leaders from across the state, works to ensure that every Michigan resident has the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 vaccine. Established by Executive Order, the Commission serves as an advisory group to Gov. Whitmer and the Department of Health and Human Services. A taping of the news conference held earlier Thursday is available [here](#).

During her remarks, via Zoom and with local and state media present as well as other audience members, Peacock credited strong partnerships and the perseverance and dedication of staff for the great progress in vaccinating the northern Michigan population.

Across the two health department jurisdictions she serves as health officer, Peacock noted that 12 mass vaccination clinics are held each week in different locations. In addition, to reach high-risk populations, strike teams in partnership with Michigan National Guard and local EMS reach out to congregate settings, homebound, and high social vulnerability index areas where people may face barriers to vaccination. The health department has also redistributed COVID-19 doses to local pharmacies and other providers to increase the number of access points throughout Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties.

Peacock was pleased to cite that, in most instances, waiting lists for vaccination clinics are diminished and exhausted each week, and that the health department has transitioned to open, self-scheduling appointments in most circumstances.

"Since the safe and effective vaccines have been available, we have teamed up over and over again with partners like Munson Healthcare, McLaren Northern Michigan, tribal partners, and federally qualified health centers such as Northwest Michigan Health Services, Inc. in vaccinating the community starting with healthcare workers, then the senior population and educators, and now we are focusing on students and families," she said.

To reach out to school-aged students and their families, the health department is working with schools to offer clinics focused on the high school population. In addition, on Monday, April 19, the health

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.

###

department is partnering with North Central Michigan College to hold a clinic on the Petoskey campus for the college population and general public. Immediate appointments for the clinic, which will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NCMC Student and Community Resource Center in Petoskey, are available by clicking [here](#). The Pfizer vaccine will be administered, and appointments are open for anyone 16 and older. A parent/guardian must accompany a minor at the appointment.

For a complete list of all available first dose vaccine clinics during the month of April, visit www.nwhealth.org. Anyone with barriers to making an appointment, such as access to the internet or transportation issues, should call 2-1-1 or their local Commission on Aging or Senior Services Center for assistance.

Today, April 15, 73 new cases were reported: Antrim (8), Charlevoix (20), Emmet (28), and Otsego (17) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,417), Charlevoix (1,421), Emmet (2,033), and Otsego (1,998).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,056), Charlevoix (1,084), Emmet (1,512), and Otsego (1,307).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (22), Charlevoix (15), Emmet (39), and Otsego (32).

The State of Michigan is reporting 770,822 cases and 16,731 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](#).

CUTLINE:

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan and Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, is shown on a Zoom statewide news conference she participated in on Thursday.



LISA PEACOCK, MSN, RN, WHNP-BC

Health Officer | Health Department of Northwest Michigan
Health Officer | Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department

