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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

Health official: Getting vaccinated is path to summer fun, school year-end activities

Michigan’s “MI Vacc to Normal” plan, the state’s Safer High School End-of-Year Events guidance, and the CDC’s announcement of new freedoms once you’ve been fully vaccinated, are all hopeful signs and show our response to fighting the pandemic is trending in the right direction, health officials said.

“We are making significant progress with our vaccinations,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “We’ve come a long way this past year and getting vaccinated is the path forward to doing what you want to do this spring and summer - safely gather, hug your family and friends, and enjoy festivities across the north.”

Although the availability of the long-awaited COVID-19 vaccine is the main tool that we need, it is not enough alone to see us through to the end, Peacock said. “Until we have achieved a high enough level of vaccine coverage to keep ongoing transmission low, we need to use additional layers of protection and move ahead with caution. This careful approach is what will allow us to have some normalcy this summer, protecting all of the things that are important to us: our businesses, school operations, opportunities to participate in sports, milestone events, and most of all our health and the health of those we love,” she said.

It’s been a challenging year but schools across northern Michigan can celebrate they have nearly completed an entire year of in-person learning, Peacock said. As school officials, students and their families look forward to year-end celebrations – prom, graduation and other events – the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has provided [guidance on how to hold safer high school end-of-year events](#). The document provides guidance for how schools can be safer while holding events such as prom, graduation and year-end parties, and guidance for schools that choose to implement an end-of-year testing program. School leaders and parents can find information on end-of-year school events pertaining to locations, mask wearing requirements, and guidelines for activities such as dancing, games, and transportation, in the document.

Fully vaccinated people can now enjoy additional freedoms such as exemption from quarantine after exposure, traveling with more confidence, and relief from masking in certain situations.

Earlier this week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that people who have been fully vaccinated – meaning they are two weeks past receiving their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna or two weeks past their one dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine – can start to do some things they stopped doing because of the pandemic. The [“When You’ve Been Fully Vaccinated” document](#) includes, among other guidelines, information on gathering or conducting outdoor activities without

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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wearing a mask except in certain crowded settings and venues. A CDC graphic on [Choosing Safer Activities](#) illustrates guidelines to mask wearing for indoor or outdoor activities if you are unvaccinated or vaccinated.

In addition, earlier today, state officials announced a pathway to return to normal by unveiling the [“MI Vacc to Normal”](#) plan as the state continues to push toward its goal of vaccinating 70% of Michiganders ages 16 years or older. To facilitate this goal, the MDHHS will base future epidemic order actions on four vaccination-based milestones that, once achieved, will enable Michigan to take a step toward normalcy.

Peacock noted the COVID-19 vaccine is widely available through health department clinics, pharmacies and doctors’ offices. She also encouraged employers to help their staff get vaccinated and neighbors to help their friends and elderly neighbors get vaccinated.

The health department is allowing all residents to self-schedule or walk in to receive their first and second dose COVID-19 vaccine at clinics throughout Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties. All clinics currently scheduled for April and early May are listed on the health department’s website, www.nwhealth.org. Anyone needing assistance to make an appointment should call 2-1-1 or their local Commission on Aging or Senior Services Center. Upcoming clinics include:

Friday, April 30

- Charlevoix County Shirley Roloff Northside Center, 13513 Division St., Charlevoix
9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- Health Department of Northwest Michigan, Mancelona Family Resource Center, 205 Grove St., Mancelona
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- Emmet County Fairgrounds, 1129 Charlevoix Ave., Petoskey
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Monday, May 3

- Mancelona Public Schools Transportation Garage, 430 Dale Ave., Mancelona
1-5 p.m. drive-through clinic
Vaccine: **J&J** (open to 18+) AND **Pfizer** (open to 16+ with parent/guardian present)
To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Wednesday, May 5

- Helena Township Hall, 8751 Helena Rd., Alden
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Vaccine: **Moderna** (open to 18 and older)

To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

- Ellison Place, 150 Dale Dr., Gaylord
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Thursday, May 6

- Charlevoix Co. Shirley Roloff Northside Center, 13513 Division St. Charlevoix, MI
1:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- Emmet County Fairgrounds, 1129 Charlevoix Ave., Petoskey, MI
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Friday, May 7

- Charlevoix Co. Shirley Roloff Northside Center, 13513 Division St., Charlevoix, MI
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- Odawa Casino, 1760 Lears Rd., Petoskey
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Vaccine: **J&J** (open to 18+) AND **Pfizer** (open to 16+ with parent/guardian present)
To schedule an appointment: J&J [Click Here](#), Pfizer [Click Here](#)

Saturday, May 8

- Odawa Casino, 1760 Lears Rd., Petoskey
9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Vaccine: **J&J** (open to 18+) AND **Pfizer** (open to 16+ with parent/guardian present)
To schedule an appointment: J&J [Click Here](#), Pfizer [Click Here](#)

The calendar on the website www.nwhealth.org lists clinics that are scheduled for the remaining dates in April and dates in early May.

Today, April 29, 33 new cases were reported: Antrim (5), Charlevoix (2), Emmet (13), and Otsego (13) counties, and 1 death in Charlevoix County. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,524), Charlevoix (1,573), Emmet (2,233), and Otsego (2,204).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,192), Charlevoix (1,157), Emmet (1,640), and Otsego (1,573).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (27), Charlevoix (19), Emmet (40), and Otsego (36).

The State of Michigan reported 837,514 cases and 17,576 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: Graphic attached

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) “Choosing Safer Activities” illustrates mask wearing guidelines for indoor and outdoor activities for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

Choosing Safer Activities

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
		Outdoor	
Safest		Walk, run, roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		Indoor	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Ride public transport with limited occupancy	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

Get a COVID-19 vaccine



Prevention measures not needed



Take prevention measures

Fully vaccinated people: wear a mask
Unvaccinated people: wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.