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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

Health officials: COVID-19 cases peak in April Residents urged to continue precautions, get vaccinated!

During the month of April, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan reported the highest number of cases since the first reported COVID-19 case in Michigan.

Dr. Josh Meyerson, speaking to the April 2021 COVID-19 report, shared, “April was one of our worst months in terms of cases. We had over 1,800 cases in April and 23 deaths in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties. This is a sobering reminder that COVID-19 is not over. It is not done with us.”

Health officials stress some interesting shifts from [April 2021](#) cases compared to [November 2020](#), the previous peak in cases reported in the four-county jurisdiction, given the data available for the vaccination status of residents. The key differences between the November 2020 peak in cases and April 2021 within the Health Department of Northwest Michigan include:

- 1,793 total cases (confirmed and probable) in November 2020, compared to 1,803 total cases in April 2021.
- A 24.5% reduction in COVID-19 associated hospitalizations, April 2021 compared to November 2020.
- A 36.1% reduction in COVID-19 associated deaths, April compared to November.
- The majority of cases (57.8%) reported in April 2021 were age 0-39.
- As of April 30, 2021, those age 0-39 had the lowest vaccination status (33.9% with first dose) compared to those age 40+ (65.0% with first dose).

Age group	Vaccination Status (first dose received as of 4/30/21)
16-19 years	30.2%
20-29 years	29.0%
30-39 years	40.4%
40-49 years	46.7%
50-64 years	60.5%
65-74 years	77.0%
70+ years	77.7%

Dr. Meyerson emphasized that despite these high numbers, “the vaccine is working and we can see a direct correlation between vaccination rates and decreased cases in those age groups with the highest vaccination rate.”

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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Additional information, individualized county profiles and the jurisdiction county profiles can be found [here](#). The health department's COVID-19 vaccine dashboard is available [here](#), and the state of Michigan vaccine dashboard is available [here](#).

"Over the last few weeks, we have seen a decrease in our case rates that is encouraging," Dr. Meyerson added. "As we continue to host vaccination clinics and get doses in arms, I am optimistic that the worst is behind us. The MI Vacc to Normal, and increased vaccinations statewide, is a great challenge for us all! We all want to get there, and we all want to take our masks off, and enjoy the summer in Michigan."

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself, your family and your community – and enjoy the full freedoms of being fully vaccinated. The health department is offering walk-in vaccinations or people can make an appointment at www.nwhealth.org. Residents can choose the date and location, and at certain clinics which of the three safe and effective vaccines they want to receive.

Upcoming clinics for walk-ins or to make a reservation by clicking on the link provided include:

Saturday, May 8

- Odawa Casino, 1760 Lears Rd., Petoskey
9 a.m.-3 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](#)

Tuesday, May 11

- Helena Township Hall - 8751 Helena Rd, Alden
1-6:30 p.m.
Vaccine: **Moderna** (must be 18 or older)
To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Wednesday, May 12

- Helena Township Hall - 8751 Helena Rd., Alden
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 13

- Charlevoix Co. Shirley Roloff Northside Center (Old Elem. School) - 13513 Division St., Charlevoix
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](#)
- Emmet County Fairgrounds - 1129 Charlevoix Ave., Petoskey
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 Gaylord office - 95 Livingston Blvd, Gaylord
1-4:20 p.m.
Vaccine: Pfizer (open to 16+ with parent/guardian present)
To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Friday, May 14

- 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](#)

Saturday, May 15

- Elk Rapids High School - 308 Meguzee Pt., Elk Rapids
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Vaccine: **J&J** (must be 18 and older)
To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

The calendar on the website www.nwhealth.org lists clinics currently scheduled through May 15.

Today, May 7, 24 new cases were reported: Antrim (7), Charlevoix (2), Emmet (5), and Otsego (10) counties. One death is also being reported in Otsego County. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,573), Charlevoix (1,600), Emmet (2,296), and Otsego (2,275).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,303), Charlevoix (1,293), Emmet (1,795), and Otsego (1,768).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (27), Charlevoix (19), Emmet (40), and Otsego (38).

The State of Michigan reported 860,808 cases and 18,084 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:

Walk-ins are welcomed at all of the COVID-19 vaccination clinics hosted by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

Safe & Effective COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Available!

Pfizer vaccination available for 16+ with parent/legal guardian present.
Moderna/J&J available for 18+. Need assistance scheduling? Call 2-1-1.

Tuesday, May 11

1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Helena Twsp Hall, Alden, Moderna vaccine

Wednesday May, 12

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Helena Twsp Hall, Alden, Pfizer vaccine

Thursday, May 13

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Emmet Co. Fairgrounds, Pfizer vaccine

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Chx. Co. Shirley Roloff Center, Pfizer vaccine

1 p.m. to 4:20 p.m. - Health Department Gaylord office, Pfizer vaccine

Friday, May 14

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Emmet Co. Fairgrounds, Pfizer vaccine

Saturday, May 15

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Elk Rapids High School, J&J vaccine

Visit www.tinyurl.com/HDNWclinics
or scan the QR code to schedule your
vaccination appointment.

