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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

Health Department clarifies quarantine guideline questions

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan stands by its recommendation of a 10-day quarantine for those with close contact to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.

Recently, there has been a great deal of public attention and media coverage directed to the topic of student quarantine after close contact with confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases.

“We have never wavered in our advice to area schools and our support for their efforts in mitigating the risk of COVID-19 remains steadfast,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Our strong recommendation for quarantine rather than requirement by local order also aligns with our typical approach in protecting the public’s health and has not changed,” she said. “We appreciate the vast cooperation of families and schools across our region throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe quarantine of close contacts continues to be a critical tool in preventing the spread of illness, especially to vulnerable community members,” she added.

In the memo to superintendents in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties, the health department reiterated it stands behind the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for schools to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as well as the 10-day quarantine for close contacts. In addition, health officials stated that, at this time, they are not issuing local orders requiring quarantine of students exposed to COVID-19.

"As vaccination levels increase, and more local adolescents are able to add the extra layer of protection, it is our hope that transmission rates will drop considerably in the future," said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director. "We continue to monitor our local data, and should any changes occur that need immediate attention we will take the necessary action for the health and safety of students, staff and all residents," he said.

The health department still recommends local school districts follow the health department’s recommendations and guidelines for quarantine as they represent best practices for the protection of area children, teachers and staff and the prevention of outbreaks in the school setting.

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.

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

Tuesday, May 11

- Helena Township Hall, 8751 Helena Rd., Alden, 1-6:30 p.m. Vaccine: **Moderna** (must be 18 or older). Walk-in or 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). Walk-in or to schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- EZ Mart, Vanderbilt, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor) or **J&J** (must be 18 or older). Walk-ins only.
- Meyer Ace Hardware, Gaylord, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor) or **J&J** (must be 18 or older). Walk-ins only.

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). Walk-in or 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). Walk-in or 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). Walk-in or 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). Walk-in or 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). Walk-in or to schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

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

Saturday, May 8, 14 new cases were reported: Antrim (2), Charlevoix (4), Emmet (5), and Otsego (3) counties. Sunday, May 9, 4 new cases were reported: Antrim (0), Charlevoix (0), Emmet (2), and Otsego (2) counties. Today, May 10, 12 new cases were reported: Antrim (3), Charlevoix (6), Emmet (2), and Otsego (1) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,578), Charlevoix (1,610), Emmet (2,305), and Otsego (2,281).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,357), Charlevoix (1,347), Emmet (1,877), and Otsego (1,848).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (27), Charlevoix (19), Emmet (40), and Otsego (38).

The State of Michigan reported 865,349 cases and 18,239 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](#).