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

### **Area vaccine rates soar above state average; Health Department explains Pfizer vaccine approval process for pre-teens**

When it comes to vaccination rates, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is running ahead of state numbers. All across the board – 16-19-year-olds, and those age 65 and older – the rate of vaccination for residents in the health department’s jurisdiction is greater than the state.

“Collectively, we are doing quite well and I’m proud that our residents are getting themselves vaccinated against COVID-19,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Being fully vaccinated means [you can now enjoy several activities without worry.](#)”

To date, more than a third of teens 16-19 in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties have received one dose and 21.3% have completed their vaccination coverage of two doses of the Pfizer vaccine. Statewide, 28.1% of teens 16-19 have received one dose and 14.9% have completed their coverage. With the Food and Drug Administration’s emergency use approval, allowing youth 12-15 to qualify for the Pfizer vaccine, the health department is expecting parents will want to register their child(ren) for a vaccination clinic.

“Yesterday, the FDA formally approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children age 12-15. Although we are awaiting final review and approval by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), we excitedly anticipate administering Pfizer vaccine to those 12-15 years old,” Peacock said, adding that approval is expected later this week.

What this means for parents with children age 12-15:

- Parents of children age 12-15 can pre-register their child now, ahead of ACIP approval, to be contacted once scheduling can begin. To pre-register for a future health department clinic, click [here](#).
- Once the final approval is obtained, parents can schedule an appointment to attend a Pfizer clinic with their child(ren) 12-15 years old.

For the 65 and older population in the health department’s region, 78.4% have had one dose and 73% have completed their vaccinations, compared to 75% and 68.9% respectively at the state level.

“Our community is really stepping up and getting vaccinated, and that’s great news!” Peacock said.

“Along with our partners and other providers, we are making it easier and easier for anyone who wants to get vaccinated. Walk ins are welcome at all our clinics and we are taking the show on the road, so to speak, and setting up pop up clinics at area businesses and festivals in the coming weeks.”

*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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For example, the health department will have “pop up” clinics at the EZ Mart in Vanderbilt and the Meyer Ace Hardware in Gaylord on May 12. During the Mushroom Festival in Boyne City, health department staff will be manning a booth on Friday, April 14. At all these locations, no appointment is necessary and walk ups are welcome. Additional information can be found by visiting [www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org).

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](http://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:

**Wednesday, May 12**

- Helena Township Hall, 8751 Helena Rd., Alden, 12-4 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](#)
- Family Fare, 240 S. Lake St., East Jordan, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor) or **J&J** (must be 18 and older). Walk-ins only.
- Boyne City Mushroom Festival, 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor) or **J&J** (must be 18 and older). Walk-ins only.

**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](http://www.nwhealth.org) lists clinics currently scheduled through May.

**Today, May 11, 26** new cases were reported: Antrim (5), Charlevoix (10), Emmet (5), and Otsego (6) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,583), Charlevoix (1,620), Emmet (2,310), and Otsego (2,287).

- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,362), Charlevoix (1,359), Emmet (1,889), and Otsego (1,865).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (27), Charlevoix (19), Emmet (40), and Otsego (38).

The State of Michigan reported 867,341 cases and 18,338 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](#).