



MEDIA CONTACT:

Laurel Johnson, PIO

O: 231-347-5628

l.johnson@nwhealth.org

www.nwhealth.org

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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

**Have an idea for a pop-up vaccine location? Need to report your out-of-state vaccination?
Health department wants to know!**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is offering a way to suggest locations for a pop-up clinic at a business or event in your community, and a way to let the health department know you received your COVID-19 vaccination out-of-state. In addition, the health department met today with school officials to discuss the impact of new state and federal recommendations addressing masking requirements for vaccinated people.

The health department has developed an [online survey](#) allowing businesses, organizations and individuals an opportunity to suggest community-based locations to host pop-up clinics across Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties.

“We are trying to increase access to the COVID-19 vaccine and are asking our communities to provide creative outreach strategies and community-based locations for pop-up clinics,” said Madison McCullough, Community Health Coordinator with the health department. “Our path out of this pandemic requires all of us working together. Your suggestions will increase vaccination rates and protect our communities from COVID,” she said, adding that examples of pop-up locations include restaurants/bars, grocery stores, festivals, food pantries, housing communities, and more.

Once the easy-to-complete survey is submitted, health department staff will follow up on the suggestions with priority given to community locations where vaccine rates are lower.

If you were vaccinated in another state and want to make sure “your vax counts here,” the health department is requesting you complete an [online form](#). The six-question form asks your name, date of birth, address and contact information, and requires you to submit a photo of your COVID-19 vaccination card, and a photo ID or license. One survey per recipient of an out-of-state vaccination should be completed. If you are unable to complete the online survey, visit a health department office location, call 800-386-5959 or email covid19vaccination@nwhealth.org for assistance.

“It is important to count every one of our residents who have been vaccinated out-of-state in our numbers so we can accurately report our vaccination rate and know when we reach - and exceed - our 70% goal of all eligible residents being vaccinated,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer.

In addition, health officials today reviewed with school officials the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s recently released guidance for [fully vaccinated people](#). The latest CDC guidance allows for fully vaccinated individuals to resume pre-pandemic activities without wearing a mask or physically

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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distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. Although the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) also updated its [Epidemic Order](#) pertaining to gatherings and face masks on Friday to align with the new CDC guidance, these changes have raised questions for schools about how to proceed in the current school year. This confusion is understandable for many businesses, including schools, during a time of transition when other state and local rules continue to apply, including the MIOSHA Emergency Rule.

The CDC recommends – and the health department concurs – that schools continue to use the COVID-19 prevention strategies outlined in the current version of [CDC’s Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools](#) for at least the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic school year.

The CDC recommendation for continuation with these strategies is based in part on the following factors:

- Students will not be fully vaccinated by the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Youth between the ages of 12 and 15 became eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine on May 12, 2021. Because people are not fully vaccinated until 2 weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, students in this age group will not be fully vaccinated before the end of the current school year. Additionally, youth under the age of 12 are not yet eligible for vaccination.
- Time is needed for schools to make systems and policy adjustments. Systems and policy adjustments may be required for schools to change mask requirements for students and staff while continuing to ensure the safety of unvaccinated populations.

The CDC plans to update its guidance for schools in the coming weeks, which can help inform school planning for the 2021-2022 academic year.

“We understand this is a challenging time for schools yet the mitigation efforts that schools have put into place have been working,” Peacock said. “We are recommending that schools continue these practices, including all staff and students wearing a mask in the classroom and indoors. We encourage our school leadership to put forth a good faith effort to follow newly updated MDHHS guidance for sports and large outdoor events, and to continue your best efforts to maintain a safe environment for students, families, and staff – especially within the school building,” she added.

Another key to this new CDC guidance is one needs to be fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated means 2 weeks after your second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine. If you don’t meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are NOT fully vaccinated. Keep taking all precautions until you are fully vaccinated.

Upcoming COVID-19 vaccination clinics this week for walk-ins or to make a reservation by clicking on the link provided are listed below. A full list of clinics is listed on the website www.nwhealth.org.

Tuesday, May 18

- Helena Township Hall, 8751 Helena Rd., Alden, 1-4 p.m. Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor). To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

- Ellison Place, 150 Dale Drive, Gaylord, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor). To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Wednesday, May 19

- Boyne City Education Center, 321 South Park Street, Boyne City (enter off of Main St.), 3-6 p.m. Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor). To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- Boyne Mountain Resort, 1 Boyne Mountain Rd., Boyne Falls, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor) or **J&J** (must be 18 or older). To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- Pellston Elementary School parking lot, 114 Zipf, Pellston, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor) or **J&J** (must be 18 or older). To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Thursday, May 20

- Emmet County Fairgrounds, 1129 Charlevoix Ave., Petoskey, 1-6:30 p.m. Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor). To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Friday, May 21

- 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 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor). To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- Central Lake High School parking lot, 8169 W. State St., Central Lake, 3-5 p.m. Vaccine: **Pfizer** (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor) or **J&J** (must be 18 or older). To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

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

Saturday, May 15, 18 new cases were reported: Antrim (2), Charlevoix (3), Emmet (10), and Otsego (3) counties, and 3 new deaths were reported: Antrim (1) and Otsego (2). Sunday, May 16, 5 new cases were reported: Antrim (2), Charlevoix (1), Emmet (1), and Otsego (1) counties. Today, May 17, 13 new cases were reported: Antrim (2), Charlevoix (4), Emmet (4), and Otsego (3) counties. As of 4 p.m. today, the health department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,604), Charlevoix (1,638), Emmet (2,353), and Otsego (2,313).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (1,429), Charlevoix (1,451), Emmet (2,009), and Otsego (1,959).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (28), Charlevoix (19), Emmet (40), and Otsego (40).

The State of Michigan reported 876,854 cases and 18,627 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](#).