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**July 29, 2021**

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

### **Due to Delta variant, CDC updates recommendations regarding testing and masking**

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases – largely due to the Delta variant – the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has changed its mask wearing and testing recommendations. The CDC now recommends:

- Anyone who is exposed as close contact, regardless of vaccination status, be tested 3-5 days after exposure.
- All students and adults in K-12 schools wear a mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status.
- All people in areas where transmission levels are substantial or high wear a mask when indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

To locate testing information visit the [Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder](#) website, or call the health department at 800-432-4121.

“Unfortunately, the Delta variant is spreading across the country, and health departments are seeing more COVID-19 cases being reported, which corresponds to increased positivity and case rates across our region and the state,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “Although our four counties are currently at a ‘moderate’ level of transmission, some other counties in northern Michigan are already in the ‘substantial transmission’ level. Because the Delta variant is increasing in prevalence across the country and is more transmissible the CDC has recommended dialing up preventative measures,” she said.

Peacock added that hospitals are reporting increasing admissions locally and are also urging people to be cautious. Although the most hospitalized patients with COVID-19 are unvaccinated, some vaccinated individuals are also affected, especially those most at risk such as the elderly and immune compromised. “Vaccination continues to be our most powerful tool in this fight – without higher vaccination rates, the virus is still circulating and becoming more transmissible. We urge anyone who has not yet been vaccinated to seek one of the many local opportunities as soon as possible to avoid further increase in transmission levels and associated disruption. Anyone with potential COVID symptoms or exposure should consider getting tested right away to minimize any potential spread,” Peacock said.

Average daily cases reported to the health department are increasing at a faster rate than in previous weeks. Some of the differences between June 2021 and July 2021 cases reported in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties include:

- 50 total cases (confirmed and probable) reported in June, compared to 86 cases from July 1-29 - a 72% increase.
- Those age 20-29 made up 18% of the cases reported through today, July 29.

*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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- As of July 28, those age 12-15 had the lowest vaccination rates (29.8% with first dose), with the highest vaccination rates among those age 65 years and older (82.7%).

Officials with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) backed the CDC recommendations. “We support the CDC recommendations that everyone - including fully vaccinated individuals - wear a mask in public indoor settings during times of local substantial or high transmission, and in K-12 schools to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially with the presence of the Delta variant in Michigan. Although we have made great strides in vaccination rates, we are concerned about increasing case counts we are experiencing in our state. The safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is our best defense against the virus and the way we are going to end this pandemic. MDHHS urges all eligible Michiganders to get vaccinated as soon as possible,” state officials stated.

The health department offers convenient COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all area residents and visitors 12 and older either by appointment ahead of time or simply walking in. Parent consent is required for minors. Anyone may call 800-432-4121 if they have questions or are not able to find a time or date that works for them and/or their child. Clinics offer client choice of Pfizer, Moderna or J&J unless otherwise noted. Upcoming clinics include:

**Friday, July 30**

- 1-4:25 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 209 Portage Dr., Bellaire. Vaccine: Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- 2:30-4:30 p.m. - Whippy Dip, 10946 County Hwy 48, Vanderbilt. Vaccine: Pfizer and J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

**Wednesday, Aug. 4**

- 8:15-11:35 a.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 95 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord. Vaccine: Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 220 W. Garfield Ave., Charlevoix. Vaccine: Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

**Thursday, Aug. 5**

- 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 205 Grove St., Mancelona. Vaccine: Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

**Friday, Aug. 6**

- 8:15-11:35 a.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 3434 M-119, Harbor Springs. Vaccine: Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- 1-3 p.m. - Elk Rapids Harbor Days, 401 River Street, Elk Rapids. Vaccine: Pfizer and J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

The calendar on the website [www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org) lists clinics currently scheduled through August 12.

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](#).