



MEDIA CONTACT:
Laurel Johnson, PIO
O: 231-347-5628
ljohnson@nwhealth.org
www.nwhealth.org

August 9, 2021

Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

Health officials recommend 'back to basics' as COVID-19 cases continue to rise

Basic public health prevention practices, such as keeping a distance from others, regular handwashing or sanitizing, testing, contact tracing, and wearing a mask, remain just as important now as before the vaccine was readily available to anyone 12 and older.

"What we are seeing is typical disease behavior. Every new case reported is an opportunity for the virus to mutate," said Dr. Meyerson, Medical Director with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

"With 62.8% of residents in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties residents 12 and older with one dose, we are making good progress but still have many people in our community that are still susceptible. As a result, the virus continues to spread and cause illness," he added.

Health officials feel it is currently necessary to focus on the following to prevent further spread of COVID-19 in our communities:

- **Get vaccinated** if 12 years or older. Vaccination is our biggest tool and protective measure against the virus.
 - The vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe disease. The majority of hospitalizations and deaths occur in unvaccinated individuals.
 - Breakthrough infections occur when a fully vaccinated person tests positive for COVID-19. Breakthrough disease occurs when a fully vaccinated person experiences symptoms of COVID-19 disease. Exact rates of breakthrough infection and disease are unknown as data was not being collected until recently when recommendations changed for vaccinated individuals exposed to a positive case.
 - Most new cases in the U.S. are among unvaccinated individuals.
- **Wear a mask indoors**, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, especially in areas where transmission is substantial or high.
- **Get tested**. After notification of exposure, whether fully vaccinated or unvaccinated, individuals should get tested. You should stay away from others pending test results and follow the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional. To locate a testing site, [click here](#).
 - Asymptomatic fully vaccinated individuals: Get tested 3-5 days following known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

During the month of July cases reported were double that of June in the health department's four-county jurisdiction of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. Of the July cases reported,

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.

###

82.4% were unvaccinated or did not report vaccination status. To view additional information about the July cases, [click here](#).

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 for walk-ins or appointments include:

Tuesday, August 10

- 8:15-11:35 a.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 205 Grove St., Mancelona. Vaccine: Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. Walk-ins are welcome or 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. Walk-ins are welcome or to schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Thursday, August 12

- 8:15-11:35 a.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 95 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord. Vaccine: Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. Walk-ins are welcome or to schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 3434 M-119, Harbor Springs. Vaccine: Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. Walk-ins are welcome or to schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Saturday, August 14

- 1-3 p.m. - Antrim County Fair Craven Park, Bellaire. Vaccine: Pfizer and J&J. Walk-ins are welcome or to schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

The calendar on the website www.nwhealth.org lists clinics currently scheduled through September 29.

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](#).