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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

Health official: Additional public confidence comes with FDA full approval of Pfizer vaccine

Today, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine](#) for individuals aged 16 and older. The vaccine continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA) for individuals 12-15 years of age, as well as third doses for certain immunocompromised individuals.

“The FDA’s approval of this vaccine is a milestone as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock, M.D. “While this and other vaccines have met the FDA’s rigorous, scientific standards for emergency use authorization, as the first FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine, the public can be very confident that this vaccine meets the high standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality the FDA requires of an approved product. While millions of people have already safely received COVID-19 vaccines, we recognize that for some, the FDA approval of a vaccine may now instill additional confidence to get vaccinated. Today’s milestone puts us one step closer to altering the course of this pandemic in the U.S.,” she added.

The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines continue to be available under EUA for those 18 and older.

Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, was pleased to hear this news and hopes it helps people who were awaiting this status get vaccinated now.

“I believe this action provides additional confidence to the public that getting vaccinated is safe and life-saving,” Dr. Meyerson said.

“We have not lost sight that the COVID-19 public health crisis continues in the U.S. and that the public is counting on safe and effective vaccines,” said Peter Marks, MD, Ph.D., director of the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. “The public and medical community can be confident that although we approved this vaccine expeditiously, it was fully in keeping with our existing high standards for vaccines in the U.S.”

The health department is also reporting that due to a delay in an Otsego County provider’s system in uploading positive cases to report to the local health department, the number of COVID-19 cases in that county appears to have significantly increased. “This jump in number of cases is **not** due to any outbreak over the past few days,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “The provider’s system was not uploading cases correctly into the state reporting system. The provider fixed the problem once it was identified so

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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their recent data upload appears to skew the number of current cases. Our team is currently conducting case investigations and contact tracing for any cases that are still in their isolation period,” she added.

The health department is offering free COVID-19 testing with the support of HONU lab this Saturday, August 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Charlevoix Township Fire Hall, 8977 Martin Rd. Pre-registration is not required, but it is recommended to reduce time spent at the testing clinic. To pre-register, visit: <http://www.honumg.info/CharFD>.

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 24

- 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 209 Portage Dr., Bellaire. Vaccine: Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#).

Wednesday, August 25

- 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.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 220 W. Garfield Ave., Charlevoix. Vaccine: Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Friday, August 27

- 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 3434 M-119, Harbor Springs. Vaccine: Pfizer and J&J. 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](#).