



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

August 26, 2021

Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

**Health Department updates COVID-19 Business Toolkit
to help businesses keep staff and customers safe**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has updated their [COVID-19 Business Toolkit](#) to assist employers in providing a safe environment for their employees and customers.

The toolkit provides a summary of OSHA and CDC guidance to assist employers in providing a safe and healthful workplace. The guidance covers universal screening, social distancing practices, and what to do if an employee tests positive for COVID-19.

“This is basic guidance intended to assist employers in recognizing and abating hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm as part of their obligation to provide a safe and healthful workplace,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “The toolkit contains helpful forms and links to resources ranging from a Workplace Health Screening form they can use with their staff to tips on how to develop and implement cleaning protocols,” she added.

All employers are encouraged to be familiar with [OSHA’s Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace](#) and the [CDC’s Guidance for Workplaces and Businesses](#). Under the OSHA Act, employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace free from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm.

The goal of a healthy workforce can best be achieved by getting vaccinated and, if exposed, getting tested. Currently, approximately 63.7% of residents 12 and older in the health department’s four-county jurisdiction of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine – compared to 59.8% statewide.

“Our staff is holding clinics at area schools to make the COVID-19 vaccine and other required or recommended vaccines readily available to students and their families as they head off to school,” Peacock said, adding the school-based clinics and other clinic locations are listed at the [health department website](#).

The health department is offering free COVID-19 testing with the support of HONU lab this Saturday, Aug. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Charlevoix Township Fire Hall, 8977 Martin Rd. The test is free, and no doctor’s order is required. Pre-registration is not required, but it is recommended to reduce time spent at the testing clinic, and walk-ins are welcome. To pre-register, visit: <http://www.honumg.info/CharFD>.

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.

###

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:

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](#)

Monday, August 30

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

Wednesday, September 1

- 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](#)

Thursday, September 2

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

Friday, September 3

- 8:15-11:30 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 95 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord. 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](#).