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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

Health Department officials: Anticipating vaccine booster update this week

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan officials, among other local and national health authorities, are anticipating updates from the FDA and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) regarding COVID-19 booster dose administration.

The FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Committee was scheduled to meet on Friday, September 17, to advise the FDA on whether to authorize a booster dose of Pfizer vaccine for some or all adults. Additionally, the ACIP is scheduled to meet on September 22-23, 2021. The approval of booster doses is required by both the FDA and ACIP prior to COVID-19 vaccine booster doses being administered. Booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are currently approved for administration to immunocompromised individuals.

"We are asking area residents to be patient as we cannot administer the Pfizer booster until we receive approval by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices," said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director with the health department. "As soon as we get approval, we will publicize the process for people to sign up with us. It is our desire to get this booster shot in the arms to anyone eligible as quickly as possible," he added.

Getting vaccinated is the number one priority to limit the spread of COVID-19. 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:

Monday, September 20

- 8:30-11:30 a.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 205 Grove St., Mancelona. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 205 Grove St., Mancelona. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Wednesday, September 22

- 8:30-11:30 a.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 3434 M-119, Harbor Springs. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 220 W Garfield Ave., Charlevoix. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Friday, September 24

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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- 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 5 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

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

The health department is partnering with HONU Management Group to offer additional testing clinics as case investigations range from 20-40 per day locally in the four counties. The test is free and pre-registration is not required but will reduce the time spent at the clinic. Both Rapid and PCR COVID-19 tests are available.

- Monday, September 20, 11 am - 6 pm, E-Free Church (1649 E M-32). To register ahead of time, [Click here.](#)
- Saturday, September 25, 10 am - 4 pm, East Jordan Fire Department (555 Maple St). To register ahead of time, [Click here.](#)
- Monday, September 27, 11am-6pm, E-Free Church (1649 E M-32). To register ahead of time, [Click here.](#)

The full list of testing clinic dates and locations can be found [here](#). The health department also offers testing at offices by appointment only. To schedule call 800-432-4121.

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](#).