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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

**Health Department jurisdiction reaches 70% of residents
16 and older with first dose**

A milestone has been reached locally with 70% of residents 16 years and older in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego County with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. In nearly two weeks 6.7% of children aged 5-11 have received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. The state's objective remains to get as many Michiganders vaccinated as possible, and the Health Department continues to provide opportunities for eligible individuals to receive their first, second, or additional and booster doses.

"Even with 70% vaccination rates in persons 16 and older, there are still many susceptible individuals and a circulating strain (Delta) that is highly contagious and spreads more easily than the original strain. Given the contagiousness of the virus it is unlikely that we will reach a level of immunity that will lead to elimination of this virus in the next few years," said Dr. Meyerson, Medical Director.

Despite reaching this milestone, cases have continued to increase throughout the region. From October 4 – November 7, 2021, the Health Department reported 2,301 total cases of COVID-19 in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego County. The majority of the reported cases, hospitalizations, and deaths during this timeframe were unvaccinated. To view additional data from this five-week period, view the October 4 – November 7 Case Trend Summary located on the [Health Department website](#).

"Being vaccinated reduces your risk of infection but more importantly greatly reduces your risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death due to this virus. Most reported cases are in unvaccinated individuals, and over 90% of those currently hospitalized in our ICU's are unvaccinated," he added.

Health Department officials reiterate that vaccination is the best way to reduce an individual's risk of contracting COVID-19 as well as the best method of reducing the impact of COVID-19 in our community. Anyone who receives a first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine through tomorrow, November 19, will be considered fully vaccinated by Christmas Eve.

To schedule an appointment exclusively for children 5 to 11 years old, [click here](#). To schedule an appointment for anyone 12 and older, [click here](#). A parent/guardian must accompany anyone younger than 18 to a COVID-19 clinic. Please bring an insurance card to the appointment. 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.

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](#)

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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[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](#).