



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

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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

**Health Department reminds community of mitigation measures
with goal of recovery and progress in mind**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan officials are reminding residents to take the steps necessary and know their role in preventing the spread of COVID-19 within their community. Though COVID-19 cases will occur, through the use of correct tools and preventative measures, everyone can do their part to prevent severe disease and death, protect the healthcare system, and keep vital infrastructure functioning.

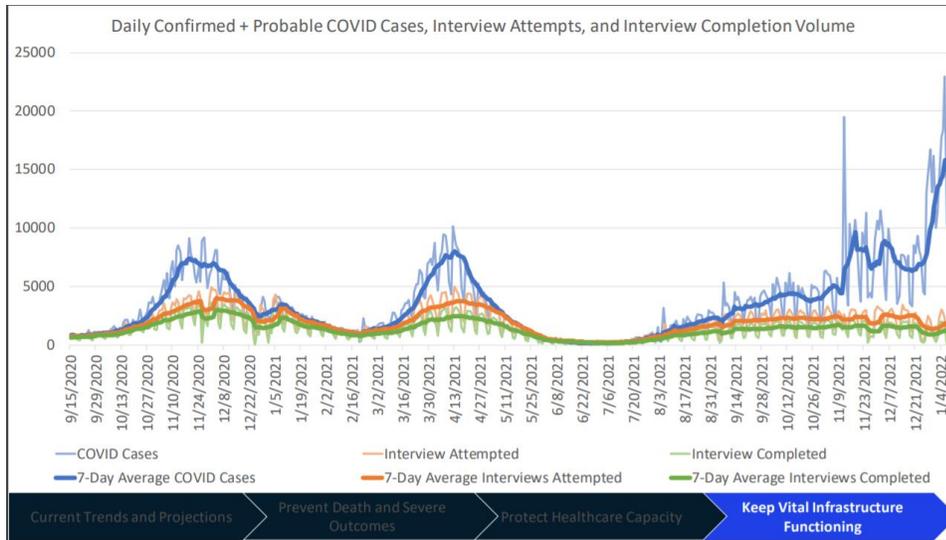
“The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently shared information about how the pandemic response will shift and evolve in 2022,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “It’s helpful to understand the overarching goal is to prioritize equity, while protecting our communities by following these guiding principles aimed at protecting our residents and communities through preventing severe outcomes and protecting critical sectors of society. We won’t be able to stop cases of COVID-19 from happening but focusing on getting the public the tools they need to protect themselves as community spread is prevalent,” she added.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is one of many local health departments that have recently shifted strategies to maximize public health tools and resources and focus investigation efforts on those priority settings like schools and long-term care facilities that are most at risk for outbreak. Additionally, it is critical to make public health information about community mitigation of COVID-19. Residents that are exposed or test positive are encouraged to contact the health department at 800-386-5959 with questions about their symptoms, and view most up to date resources at www.nwhealth.org.

The graph below from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)’s [Data and Modeling Update](#) that was released on January 18, 2022, overlays the daily confirmed and probable COVID cases, case investigation interview attempts, and how many case investigations were completed per day.

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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Health Department officials remind residents of four key points amid case increases in all four counties within the jurisdiction:

1. Stay home if sick and experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
2. Get tested if symptomatic or once 5 days have passed after exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 and stay home until your results are received. Testing locations in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego County can be found [here](#). Additional testing dates and times have been established in Emmet County at the Health Department’s new mobile lab.
 - a. Under a new Michigan rule, private insurers will be required to cover up to eight FDA-approved over-the-counter COVID-19 tests per month for each person covered by a health plan. For information on how to get your at-home over-the-counter COVID-19 test for free, visit <https://www.cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free>.
 - b. At the federal level, citizens can request free rapid coronavirus tests from the federal government. The website to process the requests is [covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov).
3. Wear a mask when out in public settings correctly and consistently, whether fully vaccinated or unvaccinated, as an extra layer of protection. See the CDC’s guide on masks [here](#).
4. Get vaccinated and boosted. Safe and effective vaccinations are offered at a number of local pharmacies and at health department clinics. See a list of locations in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego County [here](#) or visit the health department calendar of clinics for [5-11 year olds](#), and [12 and older](#) to self-schedule an appointment.
 - a. Wondering if you are eligible to receive a booster? See the U.S. FDA graphic illustrating booster eligibility [here](#).

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](#).

COVID-19 CASE DATA

JANUARY 21-25, 2022

	Total New Cases	Avg. Daily Cases	New Deaths
Antrim	148	29.6	0
Charlevoix	170	34	0
Emmet	210	42	0
Otsego	145	29	0



Public Health Information Line: 1-800-386-5959

More COVID data: www.nwhealth.org/covid19

   [nwhealthdepartment](https://www.nwhealthdepartment.org)