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PLEASE NOTE:

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is adjusting the frequency of the COVID-19 Update. The updates will now be issued as needed, with the Case Data Graphic continuing to be distributed on Tuesdays and the [Case Counts Dashboard](#) continuing to be updated on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

May 10, 2022

Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

**BA.2 cases continue to rise
Regional hospitalizations, deaths remain low**

In the last 14 days, from April 26-May 10, there were 389 reported cases of COVID-19 in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan (HDNW) reported. While the severity of illnesses continues to be significantly less than before vaccines were introduced, the uptick represents a 172% increase compared to the 14 days prior.

Antrim County ranks as medium/yellow in transmission of COVID-19. The remainder of health department's service area – Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties – rank low/green. The rankings are how the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [reports fluctuations](#) in COVID-19 transmissions.

“The local case counts follow the expected trend, as global and national trends show the continued spread of Omicron BA.2,” said Dr. Joshua Meyerson, medical director for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “The trend includes an acceleration in cases in older school-age children and at long-term care facilities, both representing groups that congregate indoors.”

For residents living in and traveling into Antrim County, the CDC recommends [staying up to date](#) on the [COVID-19 vaccines](#), and to wear a mask if symptoms present, if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or if you are at [high risk for severe illness](#).

“Although community levels in Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties remain low, these levels vary, and it's important to continue to use the available tools to combat COVID-19,” said Dan Thorell, HDNW Interim Health Officer. “These tools include staying current on COVID-19 vaccines and getting tested if you have symptoms.”

Modeling estimates from the [Commonwealth Fund](#) estimated that COVID-19 vaccines have prevented more than 2 million death, 17 million hospitalizations, 66 million infections, and almost \$900 billion (about \$2,800 per person in the U.S.) in healthcare costs.

To [schedule a vaccine](#), call 800-432-4121 or visit www.nwhealth.org/covid19imm.html.

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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.

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](#).

