P U B L I C N O T I C E

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Meeting will be held at:
10:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Charlevoix County Shirley Roloff Center
13513 Division St., Charlevoix, MI 49720
(231) 547-7663

ZOOM OPTION AVAILABLE

Safety Capacity
In person attendance will be limited to allow for spacing and following the Charlevoix County Shirley Roloff Center capacity limits as established by the Fire Marshall. Attendees are reminded they can also view the meeting via Zoom with the link provided. Public comment will not be allowed via Zoom.

Submission of Comments on Agenda Items
Public Comment on any agenda item may be shared through our website to address the Board of Health by clicking this link: PUBLIC COMMENT CARD. To have your comment electronically delivered to Board of Health members for review prior to the meeting, they must be submitted by 10 a.m. the day prior to the scheduled public meeting. Public comment cards submitted after that time will be printed and provided to Board of Health members at the scheduled meeting. NOTE: Public comments submitted via public comment card will be
reviewed but not read at the meeting.

Meeting Accessibility
Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, individuals who, because of a disability, need special assistance to attend or participate in the Board of Health meeting, may request assistance by calling (231) 547-7663 or by emailing m.bosman@nwhealth.org. Requests should be made by Sunday, November 1, 2026.

The availability of Public Comment is recognized by Robert's Rules of Order and the Michigan Open Meetings Act to provide for orderly comment from the public. Public comments are welcome and are important to the Board of Health. To that end, the following information is provided:

1. Speakers are encouraged to use the podium and microphone so that Board members can clearly hear their message.

2. Before beginning, a speaker should clearly state their name.

3. The Chairperson may implement a sign-up sheet for public comment at any time during a meeting if it becomes necessary to better organize a large public turnout.

4. There is a three (3) minute time limit for each speaker. Timing will begin after a speaker's name is established. Upon notification that thirty (30) seconds remain, speakers must make every effort to conclude their comments within this timeframe.

5. Upon the oral request of a member of the public ("donor") who is present at a public meeting and who wishes to donate his or her speaking slot to another member of the public ("speaker"), and with the permission of the Chairperson which shall not be unreasonably withheld, a speaker may comment for up to six (6) minutes, equivalent to two (2) public speaking slots.

6. Public comment shall be addressed to the Chairperson, not to Health Department staff or individual Board of Health members.

7. Speakers should be germane, courteous, and respectful during their speaking time; strongly worded advocacy, however, is to be expected, and shall not by itself be considered discourteous or disrespectful by the Board of Health.

8. If a speaker desires to provide materials to Board members during the meeting, the speaker or a designee will give the materials to the Board's secretary for distribution.

9. The Chairperson has the discretion to permit members of the public to speak at times other than those times reserved for public comment.

10. These Public Comment Rules will be incorporated with the posted agenda for each public meeting of the Board of Health so that they are readily available to each person who desires to speak at the meeting. The Board of Health expects that each person desiring to speak at the meeting will have read and will comply with these rules.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT of Northwest Michigan

AGENDA

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

10:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Meeting will be held at the Charlevoix County Shirley Roloff Center

13513 Division St., Charlevoix, MI 49720

For more information, please call (231) 547-7663

ZOOM OPTION

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84692537501?pwd=4XukryrWGFjUaQ9BbxICiiBKvfNa8a.1

Passcode: 432387

Or dial: 1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 846 9253 7501

Passcode: 432387

I.	Call to Order	Commissioner Hankins
II.	Opening Ceremony a. Pledge of Allegiance b. Invocation	Commissioner Hankins
III.	Roll Call	Commissioner Hankins
IV.	Approval of the Agenda a. Add or Remove Agenda Items	Commissioner Hankins
V.	Review/Approval of the Meeting Minutes from October 6, 2026	Commissioner Hankins
VI.	Public Comment (Three Minute Limit)	
VII.	Staff Reports a. Health Officer Report	Shannon Klonowski
	Written Reports Submitted By: a. Medical Director b. Family Health Director c. School Health Director d. Community Health Director	 Josh Meyerson Melissa Hahn Jen Vollmer Janenne Pung

Oral Report Submitted By:

a. Environmental Health Director — Jeremy Fruk

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Personnel & Finance Committee

1. September and Employee Expense Approval (Action Item) — Commissioner Koontz

b. Program & Evaluation Committee

IX. Unfinished Business

X. New Business

XI. Public Comment (Three Minute Limit)

XII. Commissioner Comment (Three Minute Limit)

XIII. Adjournment

Minutes of the Regular Board of Health Meeting
Health Department of Northwest Michigan
10:00 a.m. October 6, 2026

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Otsego County Library on October 6, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Commissioner Hankins, Chairperson. Seven (7) members of the Board of Health were in attendance establishing a quorum.

Members in attendance, roll call: Commissioners Scott Hankins, Jason Helwig, Terry VanAlstine, Matt Koontz, Don Mapes, Dana Wingo, and Jonathan Turnbull.

Members absent/excused: Commissioner Josh Chamberlain.

Staff in attendance: Shannon Klonowski**,** Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Kevin Hartley, Melissa Hahn, Janenne Pung, Tim Hella, Jeremy Fruk, Olivia Van Elslander, Nate Damer, Ellen Templeton, and Melanie Bosman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
MOTION: Commissioner VanAlstine made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Supported by Commissioner Helwig. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:
MOTION: Commissioner Turnbull made a motion to approve the September 1, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Supported by Commissioner Helwig. Roll Call. Six (6) ayes. Commissioner Hankins abstained from voting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

STAFF REPORTS
Shannon Klonowski, Health Officer – Oral and written reports were shared, Health Officer Retreat.

Written reports:

- Joshua Meyerson, MD, MPH, Medical Director – Submitted a report on Cyclosporiasis Outbreak Recap.
- Melissa Hahn, MPH, BA, RN, Director of Family Health - Submitted a report on Immunizations and Community Clinics.
- Jeremy Fruk, MSA, REHS, Director of Environmental Health – Submitted a report on Body art Program Update.
- Jen Vollmer, MA LPC, Director of School Health– Submitted a report on Parent Engagement.
- Janenne Pung, Director of Community Health – Submitted a report on Staff Training.

Oral report:

- Ellen Templeton - Certified Prevention Specialist, Community Health Coordinator II, RISE: Otsego Substance Fee Coalition - Submitted an oral report on the use of the Opioid Settlement Dollars in Otsego County.

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

MOTION: Commissioner Koontz made a motion that the finance committee met to review the bills and employee expenses and would like for the full board to approve August bills in the amount of $663,181.69. Supported by Commissioner Mapes. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Koontz made a motion that the finance committee met to review the bills and employee expenses and would like for the full board to approve August 2026 employee expenses in the amount of $25,787.38. Supported by Commissioner Turnbull. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Helwig made a motion that the positions of dentist, dental assistant, registered dental hygienist, sterilization technician, front office associate, office manager, hospital care coordinator, hospital patient care manager, clinical lead dentist, and clinical operations supervisor be added to the list of jobs at HDNW as part of the Dental Clinics North transition. Supported by Commissioner Turnbull. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Koontz made a motion that the Board of Health reclassify the Community Health Worker I position from a salary grade 5 to a salary grade 6. Supported by Commissioner Helwig. Roll call. Five (5) ayes. Commissioners Hewig, Turnbull, Mapes, Wingo, and Koontz. Two (2) no. Commissioners Hankins and VanAlstine. Motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Koontz made a motion that the Board of Health reclassify the Community Health Worker II position from a salary grade 6 to a salary grade 7. Supported by Commissioner Helwig. Roll call. Five (5) ayes. Commissioners Mapes, Turnbull, Wingo, Helwig, and Koontz. Two (2) no. Commissioners Hankins and VanAlstine. Motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Koontz made a motion that the Board of Health recognize the current DCN staff years of service and bring them forward into the MERS retirement system. Supported by Commissioner Helwig. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

PROGRAM & EVALUATION COMMITTEE:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was heard.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT: Commissioner comment was heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner VanAlstine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Commissioner Mapes. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m. Tuesday, October 6, 2026. The fixed date and time for the next regular meeting of the Board of Health will be November 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. and this meeting will be held at the Shirley Roloff Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Klonowski, Health Officer
September 1, 2026

Scott Hankins, Chairperson

HEALTH DEPARTMENT of Northwest Michigan

MEMORANDUM

Date: **November 3, 2026**

To: **Board of Health**

From: **Shannon Klnowski, Health Officer**

Re: **Updates – Pandemic Related Legalities and DCN**

As part of our annual audit, the auditors ask about pending litigation. HDNW's 2026 audit has kicked off, and since I recently addressed this question with the auditors, I thought it would be helpful to provide the Board with an update on our current status. The legal system takes time, and the current pending litigation is all related to the pandemic.

- *Let Them Breathe* – This case was brought by constituents in Otsego County related to the mask mandates during the pandemic. The Michigan Supreme Court decided not to hear the case, it is closed.
- *Concerned Parents of Emmet County* – This case was brought by constituents in Emmet County related to the mask mandates during the pandemic. The Michigan Supreme Court decided not to hear the case, it is also closed.
- *Iron Pig* – This case was brought by Moore Murphy Hospitality, LLC d/b/a Iron Pig Smokehouse to challenge the orders restricting the operation of the Iron Pig Smokehouse during the pandemic. Moore Murphy Hospitality wanted to obtain declaration that the statutes authorizing such orders are unconstitutional.
    - The circuit court agreed that MCL 333.2453 is unconstitutional, but upheld MCL 333.2451. Moore Murphy Hospitality appealed the latter ruling.
    - The Court of Appeals held the appeal to be "moot." Moore Murphy Hospitality then filed an application for review by the Michigan Supreme Court.
    - The Michigan Supreme Court denied the application for review.
        - Moore Murphy Hospitality retains the option to file a motion for reconsideration by the Supreme Court. Whether they will do so or not is unknown. Our attorney feels a grant of consideration by the Supreme Court would be unlikely.
    - The Court of Appeals decision that MCL 333.2451 was moot did not affect their ruling that MCL 333.2453 is unconstitutional. After the Court of Appeals issued its decision, our attorney filed a motion challenging the circuit court's ruling of MCL 333.2453. The motion was filed on the ground that the Court of Appeals declaration of mootness regarding the challenge to MCL 333.2451 should apply to MCL 333.2453, as well. In other words, the law should be applied equally to all sections of the public health code.
        - The circuit court is not under any legal obligation to revisit the constitutionality of that statute or the propriety of its decision. However, there is a legitimate argument that the court should exercise its discretion to do so.

- The circuit court delayed its decision, pending the decision by the Supreme Court. Now that the Supreme Court has decided, the circuit court has resumed.
- The circuit court has agreed to review the ruling and set a date for Tuesday, December 8, 2026, via Zoom.

DCN Transition Update

The transition to bring operational management of our DCN clinics back to HDNW continues forward. We are focusing on the positive as we move forward toward the December 5, 2026, transition date.

- 82 current DCN staff members are coming over to join us as HDNW employees
- 6 are still working through discussions
- 12 have resigned
- 5 are brand new hires that did not previously work for DCN
- We are actively interviewing for the leadership team and have great candidates for all three positions:
  - Dental Health Director
  - Lead Dentist
  - Clinical Supervisor
- We are NOT closing clinics. This misinformation has been circulating.
  - Instead, we are taking a 3-step approach to staffing
    - 1. Identify who is coming over
    - 2. Identify gaps in staffing needs
    - 3. Recruit

Although this transition has had challenges, we are moving forward, keeping a positive attitude, working hard, and excited to welcome the current DCN staff members to our team.

Fall 2026

PROVIDER UPDATE

News from your local Health Department

In This Issue

Therapy Corps- Now Accepting Referrals

Nitrous Oxide

Increased Rabies Exposures

Immunization Waiver Rates

Fall Vaccine Recommendations

Summer Food Recall Highlights

CD Report for 2026

Joshua Meyerson, MD

220 W. Garfield Ave.
Charlevoix, MI 49720

j.meyerson@nwhealth.org
231-547-7679

Northern Michigan Child & Family Therapy Services Corps

Therapy Corps- Now Accepting Referrals

Therapy Corps is a Behavioral Health Initiative dedicated to increasing access to free mental health services for Medicaid-insured (we do not bill insurance), uninsured, and underinsured youth ages 0–25 across northern Michigan. Built in response to the long waitlists and limited availability of behavioral health services in our region, Therapy Corps connects children, adolescents, and young adults with qualified volunteer therapists. We are now accepting client referrals and encourage you to consider this resource for the youth and families your organization serves.

Providers and families may submit referrals through two pathways: the Agency Referral Form, designed for professionals making referrals on behalf of their organization, and the Self-Referral Form, which allows families to submit information directly. Once a referral is received, our team matches the client with a therapist based on clinical expertise, availability, treatment needs, and the family's preference for tele-therapy or in-person sessions. After a match is made, we share the therapist's contact information with the family and notify the referring organization; to comply with HIPAA, families make the initial outreach. We then follow up to ensure a successful connection and provide an update to the referring provider.

To meet growing demand and expand access to timely services, Therapy Corps is seeking additional volunteer mental health clinicians, including fully and limited licensed professionals. Volunteers play a crucial role in reducing barriers to care for youth who may otherwise face significant delays in accessing support. More information about client referrals and volunteer opportunities is available at https://mitherapycorps.org/, and we welcome your partnership in strengthening behavioral health access throughout northern Michigan.

Between January 2024 and May 14, 2026:

112 Michigan Cases

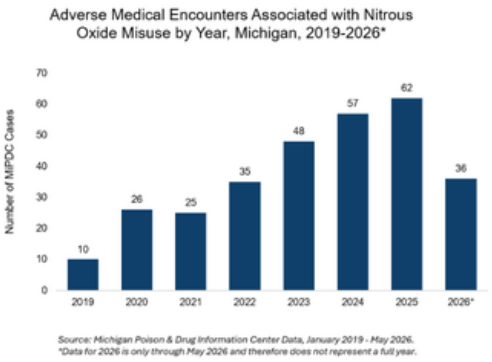
99 Hospital Presentations

38 Admissions

10 ICU Admissions

Nitrous Oxide

Growing misuse of nitrous oxide is sending more Michigan residents to the hospital. Nitrous oxide can have benefits in medical or dental settings. However, when it is used recreationally (repeatedly or in large amounts) it can lead to anxiety, depression, memory problems, blood clots and injuries related to impaired judgement. Recreational nitrous oxide products may include small metal whipped-cream chargers, sometimes called "whippets" or "whippits," as well as larger flavored nitrous oxide tanks. Products may also be marketed using terms such as NOS, Galaxy Gas, or other brand and product names.



These products have become widely available to consumers and has led to some life-threatening cases. Data from the Michigan Poison and Drug Information Center (MiPDC) shows a sharp increase in nitrous oxide-related health emergencies in recent years. There have been 112 cases identified between 2024 and May 2026. Nearly half of all reported cases resulted in medically significant outcomes including numbness, trouble walking, and confusion.

Increased Rabies Exposures and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Use in Michigan

On September 10, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory in response to increase reports of human exposures to rabid or possibly rabid animals and rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (RPEP). Since July 2026, multiple states, including Michigan, have reported local increases in human rabies exposures involving known rabies vectors, or animals in which rabies are less commonly reported. Michigan has seen a significant increase in the number of animals, especially bats, submitted to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Bureau of Laboratories for rabies testing during June, July, and August of this year compared to the number of submissions in 2024 and 2025. During July and August 2026, rabies-related inquiries were 17% higher than during the same period in 2025. During this time frame, CDC also received reports from at least eight state health departments of increased rabies PEP use, PEP administration errors, or both.

Rabies PEP is lifesaving, when necessary, but it is also complex and expensive. CDC reports that a typical course of PEP can cost approximately $11,000-$14,000 per person. When a potentially exposing animal is available for testing, a timely negative result can prevent unnecessary treatment and substantial healthcare costs.

Rabies Submissions

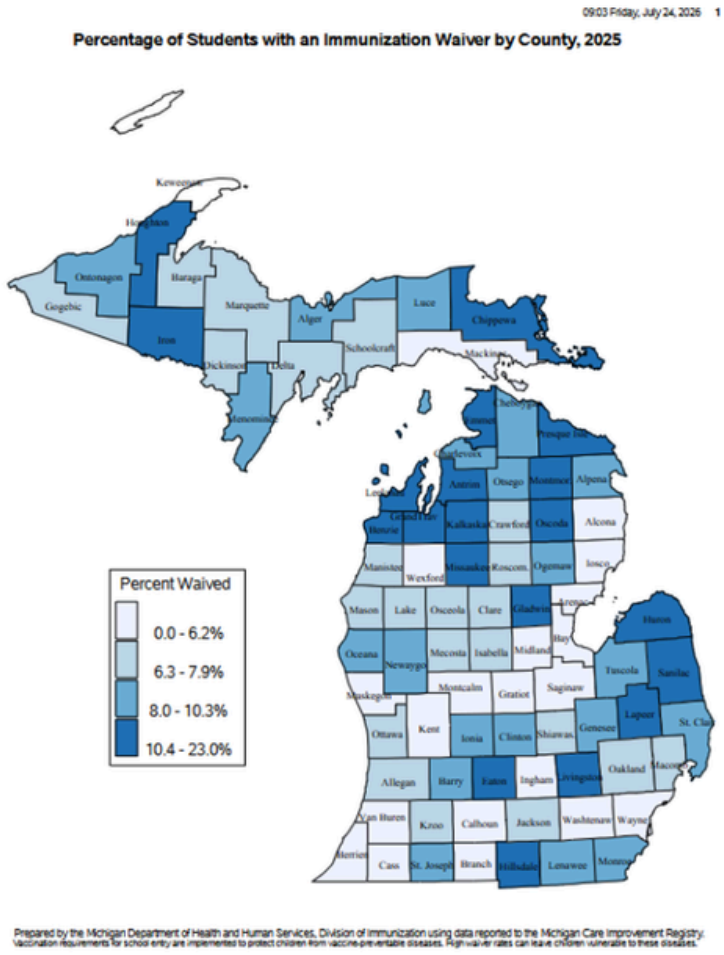
Benzie-Leelanau
2025: 25
2026: 33

District Health Department no. 4
2025: 45
2026: 40

Health Department of Northwest Michigan
2025: 44
2026: 61

Immunization Waiver Rates

To prevent outbreaks in schools and other places where children gather, a high percentage of children must be immunized. Over time, Michigan has implemented laws and rules to ensure children are protected against vaccine preventable diseases, with the most recent being in 2014. For Michigan parents opting their children out of getting vaccines before entering school, there is an educational requirement. The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules approved a new rule that allows parents/guardians to have the opportunity to speak with a health educator from their local health department about their concerns and questions regarding immunizations, prior to the nonmedical waiver being signed. The educational requirement is now available as an online educational module, which is a new feature this year. Any parent/guardian who wants to claim a nonmedical waiver will need to receive education regarding the benefits of vaccination and the risks of disease from their local county health department before obtaining the certified nonmedical waiver. After a parent/guardian has completed the online educational module, they will need to print out a form and bring it into their local health department for certification.



In 2025, public schools had higher overall immunization completion rates (90%) than private schools (80.9%). Public schools also had a lower exemption rate (6.6%) than private schools (13.1%). However, exemption rates have increased in both private and public schools from 2024-2025. Waiver rates have significantly increased since, especially in the last three years, and overall state waiver rates are now around 7.1% overall for school entry. High wavier rates and low vaccination coverage leave children vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases. The increase in exemptions has occurred amidst a decline in childhood immunization rates that began during the COVID-19 pandemic and has continued through recent years. As a result, cases and outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases such as measles and pertussis have increased across the state.

The MDHHS Immunization Division maintains Immunization Data and Statistics including County Immunization Report Cards (updated quarterly and include immunization rates for many different vaccines including for adults), School Immunization Data down to school building level, and other helpful information for providers and families.

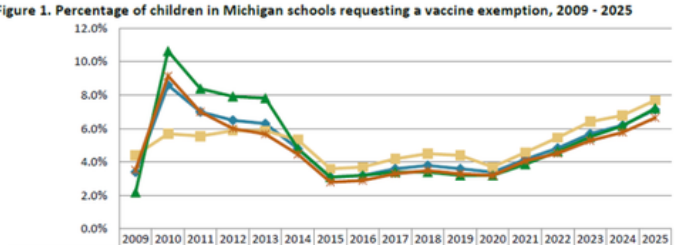
All health care providers should continue to give strong recommendations to families to stay protected against vaccine preventable diseases.

Percent waived for school aged children listed by county

- Antrim: 11.6%
- Benzie: 10.4%
- Leelanau: 9.7%
- Montmorency: 9.5%
- Otsego: 9.2%
- Presque Isle: 7.4%
- Cheboygan: 6.9%
- Emmet: 6.9%
- Charlevoix: 6.7%
- Alpena: 3.6%

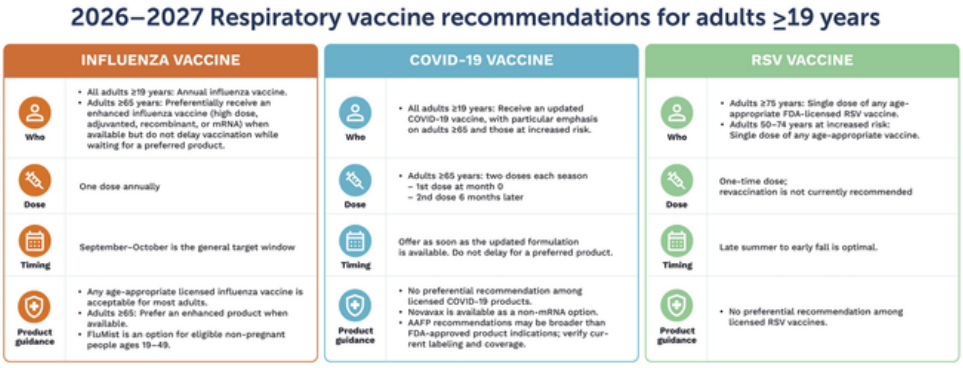
Immunization status of school children in Michigan, 2025

Figure 1. Percentage of children in Michigan schools requesting a vaccine exemption, 2009 - 2025



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total ^	3.4%	8.6%	7.0%	6.5%	6.3%	4.8%	3.1%	3.2%	3.6%	3.8%	3.6%	3.4%	4.2%	4.8%	5.7%	6.2%	7.1%
Kindergarten	4.4%	5.7%	5.6%	5.9%	5.9%	5.3%	3.6%	3.7%	4.2%	4.5%	4.4%	3.7%	4.6%	5.5%	6.4%	6.8%	7.7%
6th/7th**	2.2%	10.6%	8.4%	7.9%	7.8%	4.8%	3.1%	3.2%	3.4%	3.4%	3.2%	3.2%	3.9%	4.6%	5.5%	6.2%	7.2%
New Entrants	3.5%	9.1%	7.0%	6.0%	5.7%	4.5%	2.8%	2.9%	3.3%	3.5%	3.3%	3.2%	4.1%	4.5%	5.3%	5.8%	6.6%

^Total is the combination of kindergarten, 6/7th grade and new entrants to the school district.
**In 2012, a Senate Bill was passed to move the sixth-grade assessment to seventh grade.
§ In 2010, additional immunizations were added to the list of requirements.
ǂ In 2014, education was required for students requesting an exemption.



Fall Vaccine Recommendations

The 2026–2027 respiratory vaccine guidance emphasizes timely vaccination for influenza, COVID-19, and RSV among adults ages 19 and older, with particular focus on older adults and individuals at increased risk. All adults should receive an annual influenza vaccine, ideally between September and October, with enhanced formulations preferred for adults ages 65 and older when available. Updated COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all adults each season, with adults ages 65 and older advised to receive two doses—one at the start of the season and a second dose six months later. Vaccination should occur as soon as updated products are available, without delaying for a preferred brand or formulation.

RSV vaccination is recommended as a single dose for adults ages 75 and older, as well as adults ages 50–74 who are at increased risk. The optimal timing is late summer to early fall, and current guidance does not recommend revaccination. No preferential product recommendation exists among licensed RSV vaccines. Providers are encouraged to incorporate these updated recommendations into routine preventive care conversations to reduce severe respiratory illness among high-risk patient populations.

Summer Food Recall Highlights

Michigan has seen some outbreaks in recent months tying to recent food recalls. A salmonella outbreak has been tied to jalapenos and a Cyclosporiasis outbreak potentially tied to lettuce or other produce items.

The nationwide outbreak of cyclosporiasis this summer was widespread and caused significant illness, especially in Michigan. Caused by the Cyclospora parasite, illness usually develops 2-14 days after exposure and leads to prolonged diarrhea along with nausea, abdominal cramps, fatigue, and weight loss. Without treatment symptoms can last for several weeks but will be shortened by prompt treatment with an antibiotic.

The investigation by FDA linked the outbreak to processed iceberg lettuce from Taylor Farms de Mexico that was contaminated. The company recalled all iceberg lettuce sourced from central Mexico on July 17th. The product was sold in many retail outlets including Walmart as well as used in restaurants. Most exposures occurred in late June to mid-July.

As of September 6th, there have been 14,718 reported cases of cyclosporiasis with 373 cases indicating that they led to hospitalization. There were also two reported deaths, including one in Presque Isle County. This outbreak was largely centered in southeast Michigan, but Northern lower Michigan also saw a higher trend of cases.

Local Cases
BLDHD – 5 cases, DHD4 – 187 cases (Alpena 165), HDNW – 18 cases

2026 Communicable Disease Report, January 1st- September 30th, 2026

Enteric Disease	BLDHD	DHD 4	HDNW
Campylobacter	10	9	44
Cryptosporidiosis	2	1	3
Giardiasis	1	1	10
Norovirus	0	2	2
Salmonellosis	10	11	20
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli --(STEC)	5	2	2
Shigellosis	3	2	3
Yersinia enteritis	0	1	5
Respiratory Disease	**BLDHD**	**DHD 4**	**HDNW**
Influenza	53	339	253
Novel Coronavirus COVID-19	56	267	244
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	24	66	98
Meningitis & Invasive Diseases	**BLDHD**	**DHD 4**	**HDNW**
Meningitis - Aseptic	0	0	3
Meningitis - Bacterial Other	0	0	2
Streptococcus pneumoniae, Inv	1	9	5
Other	**BLDHD**	**DHD 4**	**HDNW**
CPO	5	2	6
Candida auris	2	2	1
Coccidioidomycosis	0	1	1
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	1	0	0
Cyclosporiasis	5	186	18
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	0	0	2

Communicable Disease Report, January 1st- September 30th, 2026

Other	BLDHD	DHD 4	HDNW
Histoplasmosis	0	2	1
Legionellosis	0	2	1
Q Fever*	0	0	1
Streptococcal Dis, Inv, Grp A	1	3	3
Unusual Outbreak or Occurrence	8	1	1
Vibriosis - Non Cholera	0	0	1
Animal Bite	**BLDHD**	**DHD 4**	**HDNW**
Rabies Animal	0	1	1
Rabies: Potential Exposure & PEP	4	65	73
STI	**BLDHD**	**DHD 4**	**HDNW**
Chlamydia (Genital)	20	58	95
Gonorrhea	3	6	9
Syphilis - Early Latent	1	0	0
Syphilis - Secondary	0	0	1
Syphilis - Unknown Duration or Late	1	1	4
Mycobacterium Disease	**BLDHD**	**DHD 4**	**HDNW**
Latent Tuberculosis Infection	6	2	5
Nontuberculous Mycobacterium	0	1	9
Vaccine Preventable Disease	**BLDHD**	**DHD 4**	**HDNW**
Chickenpox (Varicella)	1	0	1
H. influenzae Disease - Inv.	3	2	1
Pertussis	2	1	6
Shingles	2	1	1
VZ Infection, Unspecified	5	0	1

Communicable Disease Report, January 1st- September 30th, 2026

Vector Born Disease	BLDHD	DHD 4	HDNW
Anaplasmosis	16	0	7
Lyme Disease	44	6	21
Malaria	0	1	0
West Nile Virus	0	0	1
Hepatitis	**BLDHD**	**DHD 4**	**HDNW**
Hepatitis A	0	0	1
Hepatitis B, Chronic	1	0	0
Hepatitis C, Chronic	2	4	15
Aggregate Reports of Illness (School Reported)	**BLDHD**	**DHD 4**	**HDNW**
Flu Like Disease	314	16	3377
Gastrointestinal Illness	232	0	62
Head Lice	2	0	68
Strep Throat	8	0	192
Total	**854**	**1,074**	**4,681**

Dr. Joshua Meyerson serves as the Medical Director for three local health departments in northern Michigan: Health Department of Northwest Michigan, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, and District Health Department No. 4.

MEMORANDUM

Date: **November 3, 2026**

To: **Board of Health**

From: **Melissa Hahn, MPH, RN Director of Family Health**

Re: **Family Health Satisfaction Survey Results**

Client Survey Results

Once a year, Family Health performs client satisfaction surveys to ensure our services meet the needs of our community. We inquire about appointment times and/or desires, wait times, the service provided, the staff, the space, and the education/paperwork received (if any). We collect surveys in all our offices as well as during home visits. Our goal is to capture around 100 surveys in each location, and we also monitor to ensure that we are surveying clients in all our many programs.

What we learned:

- We completed 389 surveys
- Staff Attitude: 98% responded excellent (2% Good, 0% Poor)
- Staff Helpfulness: 97% responded excellent (3% Good, 0% Poor)
- How many minutes did you wait for services: 88% waited under 5 minutes

When asked what do you like most about the services you received: the overwhelming response was friendly, nice, kind staff.

When asked to share suggestions for improvement: 33% responded: none and most others commented: keep doing what we are doing

A few comments clients shared:

“I love the willingness to listen and not feeling judged. I’m grateful for the platform to be heard and have supports during this exciting time in my life.”

“They had a vaccine my doctor’s office did not. This made me happy. I will get all my vaccines from WIC now. The nurse was excellent in explaining the differences between them all.”

“Knowledgeable staff that were friendly as well. That is very welcoming to me.”

“I was new to services and felt like all my questions were answered. Had great explanations to services.”

HEALTH DEPARTMENT of Northwest Michigan

MEMORANDUM

Date: **November 3, 2026**

To: **Board of Health**

From: **Jen Vollmer, MA LPC**

Re: **Beaver Island Health Fair**

On October 12th, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan (HDNW) participated in the 3rd Annual Beaver Island Health Fair. The Beaver Island Rural Health Clinic received a grant from the Charlevoix Community Foundation and partnered with HDNW to provide health education and wellness information to students at Beaver Island Community Schools and community members.

School health staff provided education focused on mental health, overall well-being, and healthy choices at various stations throughout the gym. This event was an opportunity for students and families to connect with local health resources in one location.

"Move your body, boost your brain". This station highlighted both the physical and mental health benefits of exercise and was a busy spot! Students picked an exercise and performed for 30 seconds to 1 minute. Our staff then discussed how being active can improve mood, reduce stress, increase energy, and help with focus and learning.

Another station featured Jenga building as a "confidence tower," where students wrote something they love about themselves on a Jenga block. This activity encouraged students to recognize their individual strengths, celebrate what makes them unique, and build a positive sense of self. As students added their blocks to the tower, they were reminded that confidence grows when we recognize and appreciate our own qualities. The activity also reinforced the importance of self-esteem, positive self-talk, and building a strong foundation of self-worth.

This annual collaboration continues to demonstrate the value of community partnerships in expanding access to health education, preventive services, and wellness resources, particularly in rural communities such as Beaver Island.

GET MOVING
FOR A HEALTHIER YOU
STRONGER HEART
STRONGER MUSCLES & BONES
BETTER MOOD
HEALTHIER SKIN
IMPROVED SLEEP
MOVE YOUR BODY
BOOST YOUR BRAIN!
SIMPLE WAYS TO MOVE
FIND WHAT WORKS FOR YOU
YOUR BRAIN GETS A BOOST!
MORE CREATIVITY
BETTER MEMORY
IMPROVED FOCUS
LESS STRESS
BOOSTED MOOD

BASKETBALL
NORTHERN LIGHTS LEAGUE
ACADEMIC GOVERNORS CUP
NORTHERN LIGHTS LEAGUE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT of Northwest Michigan

MEMORANDUM

Date: **November 3, 2026**

To: **Board of Health**

From: **Janenne Irene Pung, Director of Community Health**

Re: **Full-Scale Emergency Exercise Planning**

Planning is underway for a full-scale emergency exercise scheduled for June 10, 2027. A full-scale exercise simulates a real event and is designed to evaluate multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-disciplinary emergency response capabilities in a highly realistic, stressful environment. This includes mobilizing and deploying personnel, equipment, and resources to test operational readiness under conditions that mirror an actual incident. The exercise will follow the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), which provides standardized guidance for program management, design, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning.

The 2027 exercise will take place in Emmet County and will require coordinated efforts across HDNW, emergency management, and other partner agencies. Scenario details will be determined during three collaborative meetings, the first of which was held on October 29.

Behind the Scenes with HDNW

A Planning Workgroup of staff was recently established to guide HDNW's involvement in the exercise. The group is led by Chloe Capaldi, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Members of the workgroup serve on the overall Exercise Planning Team and are trusted agents throughout the process. They have experience with widescale emergency response based on their varied roles in establishing mass vaccination clinics in the past. These "trusted agents" will help define exercise goals and objectives, identify stakeholders, and determine operational scope. Once determined, they will keep the details of the drill confidential so HDNW's staff will be responding in real-time to the emergency scenario.

Over the next eight months, workgroup members will participate in several meetings and brainstorming sessions, with an estimated time commitment of up to 40 hours per member. Area stakeholders will also participate in the mid- and final-planning meetings as part of the HSEEP exercise development cycle.

As part of the exercise, HDNW will create and follow a Master Scenario Events List. The agency's Emergency Operations Center will be activated decisions made and the scenario unfolds. Following the exercise, the team will meet for a "hot wash" and an After Action Report will be prepared to determine what went well and where improvements are needed, with steps identified on how to make those improvements. The After Action Report will be submitted to the State of Michigan, as is required for all drills and actual emergent events.

More information will be available, except the details of the scenario, in the months to come.

SEPTEMBER 2026 Bills and Employee Expenses

Suggested Motion The finance committee met to review the bills and employee expenses and would like to make a motion for the full board to approve the SEPTEMBER 2026 bills, in the amount of $694,010.77

Suggested Motion: The finance committee met to review the bills and employee expenses and would like to make a motion for the full board to approve the SEPTEMBER 2026 employee expenses of $23,562.62.