

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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l.johnson@nwhealth.orgwww.nwhealth.org**February 9, 2021****Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update****A guide to getting a COVID-19 vaccine
in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Otsego counties**

Many residents are wondering: “When am I going to be able to get a coronavirus vaccine?” Here’s a guide to help you understand who’s eligible for a shot now, and the different ways to sign up to get one if you work or live in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet or Otsego counties.

“The supply of vaccine is limited, and it will take time to vaccinate everyone,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “We recognize that it is very difficult to wait and be patient during this challenging time,” she said.

Who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in the health department’s four-county jurisdiction?

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan follows the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Michigan guidelines for priority groups, which determines the order of who receives vaccinations and currently only these groups are [eligible to be vaccinated](#):

- PHASE 1A: Paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials as well as residents in long term care facilities.
- Approved segments of PHASE 1B: some frontline essential workers including: child care and pre-K through high school staff, workers in congregate care facilities (homeless shelter, juvenile justice, child care staff), firefighters, law enforcement, corrections workers and inspectors.
- Currently approved segment of PHASE 1C: Individuals 65 and older.

How do I register for a shot? What if I’m a senior?

There are several ways to register for vaccination through the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

- **Pre-registration form:** Anyone with access to a computer and internet should complete the [COVID-19 online pre-registration form](#) on the health department’s website. Please double-check that all information is accurate, especially your email address as this is how we will contact you to make an appointment. After clicking submit, you will receive a confirmation email notifying you that your pre-registration form has been received.
- **Phone:** Seniors who are unable to access the form or have any other barriers to receiving the vaccination should call the senior hotline at 231-715-5557. This hotline is experiencing extremely high call volume, so when prompted, you may request a call back instead of staying on the line. Seniors may also call their local Council on Aging or senior citizen center for assistance in signing up. Staff there will assist seniors in registering.

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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I'm registered at several locations. Is this OK?

Yes. It is very acceptable for you to pre-register with the health department, and your local hospital and pharmacy.

I've pre-registered with the health department. How do I find out where I am on the list?

The health department is currently scheduling appointments for eligible individuals that pre-registered in early to mid-January. More than 29,000 people have pre-registered. Individuals who pre-registered later still need to be patient as we work with the vaccine supply available to schedule appointments.

I already got my shot somewhere else, but pre-registered with the health department. What should I do?

Anyone receiving a vaccination at a provider other than the health department, but pre-registered with us, should email COVID19vaccination@nwhealth.org to inform us that you have received the vaccine and can be taken off our list. Doing so will allow health department staff to more quickly reach the individuals who still need to be vaccinated.

May I get a COVID-19 vaccine in a county where I don't live? Or if I live in a county only part-time?

Yes. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan encourages you to register for a vaccine in the county where you work or live – even on a part-time basis.

How do I sign up for my second COVID-19 dose?

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is registering individuals for their second dose at the time of their first vaccination. If you received your vaccination with another provider (hospital/health care providers/pharmacy), please ask at the time you receive your first dose.

I registered for a vaccine, now what?

We understand your frustration in the process and ask for your patience. You will be contacted when a vaccine is available for you. The number of people who have registered and are requesting a vaccine far exceeds the supply we have received at the health department. It could be weeks or months before an appointment is available for you.

Today, February 9, the health department is reporting 8 new cases: Antrim (1), Charlevoix (1), Emmet (6), and Otsego (0) counties. One new death was reported in Antrim County. As of 4 p.m. today, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (882), Charlevoix (1,017), Emmet (1,447), and Otsego (1,126).
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim (734), Charlevoix (862), Emmet (1,190) and Otsego (957).
- Confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths in the following counties: Antrim (19), Charlevoix (11), Emmet (35), and Otsego (25).

The State of Michigan is reporting 569,980 cases and 14,965 deaths. As of February 5, 2021, cumulative recovered cases statewide are 498,495.

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](#).

PHOTO CUTLINE:

Judith and Don Caird, both 76 of Petoskey, are registered by Health Department of Northwest Michigan staff member Susan Pulaski at a recent COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Petoskey High School.