

District Health Department No. 4

For Immediate Release

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Spread of COVID-19 Delta Variant Increases Locally

District Health Department No. 4 (DHD4) continues to be notified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) of additional cases with confirmed Delta variant in Alpena County and now Montmorency County. Last week, the DHD4 jurisdiction saw an increase of 80 new COVID-19 cases; 50 being in Alpena County.

“I think we can safely assume that the Delta variant is spreading quickly in Alpena and surrounding areas, and is the predominant strain,” states DHD4 Medical Director, Joshua Meyerson. Meyerson reiterates, “Vaccination is more important than ever. The COVID-19 vaccines show effectiveness against variants and reduce the risk of serious illness that may lead to hospitalization or death.”

With strong evidence of community transmission, the health department urges everyone to remain vigilant and heed national and state recommendations.

Current CDC and MDHHS recommendations are as follows:

- Individuals in areas of high or substantial transmission, should wear masks in public indoor spaces regardless of vaccination status.
- Regardless of transmission levels-- Individuals in K-12 schools should wear mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Including students, teachers, staff, and visitors.

Current levels of community transmission in the DHD4 jurisdiction are:

- Alpena County, “High”
- Cheboygan County, “Moderate”
- Montmorency County, “High”
- Presque Isle County, “Substantial”

Transmission levels are updated daily by the CDC. Residents can view their community transmission level at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>.

Schools and businesses should consider the latest public health recommendations when determining risk mitigation strategies for employees and clients within buildings. A layered protection strategy should include the following risk mitigation measures:

- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine
- Wearing a mask around others in crowded indoor or outdoor areas, especially in counties with substantial and high community transmission
- Staying six feet apart from others
- Washing hands often
- Staying home when you feel ill. Get tested if you have symptoms
- Ventilating indoor spaces

COVID-19 vaccines are offered at DHD4 and locations throughout the County. To find a vaccine clinic near you, visit www.dhd4.org/covid19vaccine or www.vaccines.gov.

www.dhd4.org

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