

District Health Department No. 4

For Immediate Release
Date: November 30, 2021



No cases of COVID-19 Omicron variant in Michigan but prevention urged

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is following the details of the newly identified Omicron variant, first reported to the WHO by South Africa. While the COVID-19 Omicron variant has not been detected in the state, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is monitoring for it and advising residents that the presence of variants makes it even more important to get vaccinated, including the booster doses to increase protection, wear masks and take other precautions.

This week marks a daunting new milestone for District Health Department No. 4 (DHD4) – 10,000+ cases of COVID-19 across the four county service area since the start of the pandemic. “Nearly two years in, we know what it takes to prevent the spread of COVID-19,” said Devin Spivey, DHD4 Community Health Director/Epidemiologist. “Regardless of the strain, we must continue to practice tried-and-true preventative measures to stop the spread of this disease and keep ourselves, our families, and our communities safe.”

In addition to getting vaccinated and wearing masks – particularly indoors and in crowded areas – other things people can do to protect themselves and their loved ones include:

- Getting tested for COVID-19, especially before gatherings.
- Physically distancing from others and avoiding crowds
- Washing hands frequently with soap and water and cleaning hands with alcohol-based hand rub.
- Covering your mouth and nose with a bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Self-isolating until you recover if you develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.

DHD4, as well as MDHHS and the CDC recommends that everyone five years and older protect themselves from COVID-19 by getting fully vaccinated. It is also encouraged to get a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose for all those who are eligible.

Travelers to the U.S. should continue to follow CDC recommendations for traveling.

For a list of vaccine providers and locations in Alpena, Cheboygan, Montmorency and Presque Isle counties, visit www.dhd4.org/covid19. To schedule an appointment with the DHD4 call 1-800-221-0294.

If you have quarantine or isolation timeframe questions, please use DHD4’s easy calculator to know when to end isolation or quarantine. It can be found at www.dhd4.org/covid19.

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Please use the Media Request link at www.dhd4.org for any media requests.

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