July 8, 2020

Possible COVID-19 Public Exposure

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan wants to make the public aware of locations that may have allowed for possible exposure to COVID-19. Occasionally during contact tracing, we are unable to identify all potential close contacts and therefore share information about potential exposure at a public location. In this instance, we have identified the following potential community exposures to report as a result of case investigations:

- An out of state visitor who tested positive for COVID-19 flew into and out of Cherry Capital Airport on June 30, 2020, and July 5, 2020, respectively. Passengers on United Air Flight 3470 from Chicago, Illinois to Traverse City, Michigan and Flight 3478 from Traverse City, Michigan to Chicago, Illinois are asked to monitor for symptoms and notify their local health department if they need support or guidance.

- Both the airline and the airport have procedures in place and have notified staff and close contacts on both flights.

- Dockside Restaurant, Bellaire – July 2nd between 12-2pm. Dockside has been contacted and the health department has provided them with guidance to ensure safety of employees and visitors.

Individuals that were present at Dockside Restaurant during the above time period, or flew on the airline flights above, should self-monitor for 14 days from the date of potential exposure. Anyone that is self-monitoring as a result of a potential exposure to COVID-19 should keep away from others as much as possible and limit travel. If you do choose to be tested, you should wait at least 5 days after exposure to do so, and self-isolate until results have returned. If you have questions about testing or about your potential exposure, please call the health department at 1-800-432-4121.

Self-Monitoring includes:

- Monitoring for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 which include fever, cough, shortness of breath but also may include other symptoms such as fatigue, loss of taste and smell, and diarrhea.

- If you are self-monitoring and develop symptoms, you should call your primary care physician first for testing. If you do not have a primary care physician, please call the Health Department of Northwest Michigan at 1-800-432-4121.

Dr. Meyerson, Medical Director shared, “if you are sick, stay home. If you get tested, please do not go out in public until you have your results. If you are not sick and choose to visit our local businesses be aware that some people who test positive for COVID-19 have no symptoms, and we need to continue following masking, handwashing, and social distancing guidelines.”

Any individual with mild symptoms of COVID-19 can and should get tested. Testing is also available for anyone who feels they need a test for other reasons. Please contact your primary care physician or call 1-800-432-4121 to request a test. If you need support during this time, call 211 for information regarding local resources.

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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