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Possible COVID-19 Public Exposure

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan was notified by another health department in Michigan of several individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 this week after attending the festivities at the Torch Lake sandbar over the Fourth of July holiday. The health department staff relayed that during the case investigations of those residing in their jurisdiction, it was determined that numerous individuals may have been exposed to COVID-19. The positive cases were not able to offer identifying information for all potential contacts and therefore we want to make the public aware that those who attended could be at risk for exposure and additional cases could be seen in the coming days.

If you were at the Torch Lake Sandbar party over 4th of July weekend, you should monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and seek testing if symptoms should develop or if you were at high risk for exposure due to being in close proximity with others or not wearing a cloth facial covering.

People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms, ranging from mild to severe. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. 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. Anyone who has tested positive should not travel until they are released from isolation by the local health department. 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.

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer shared, "This situation reminds us of how important it is to take precautions such as avoiding large gatherings whenever possible especially without social distancing and masking. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated event and leaves our community at risk when close contacts are not able to be identified and alerted to quarantine. We can't stress enough how that it is imperative that we each do our part to stay safe and stay open."

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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Stay up to date on the latest information in the Health Department 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](#).

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