



STAY SAFE THIS MEMORIAL WEEKEND

Spike in Newaygo and Oceana County cases mostly due to gatherings

May 20, 2020 – Memorial Day weekend is often thought of as the “official” start to summer. Now that Governor Whitmer has opened up several counties in northern Michigan and the U.P., many people will be heading north to enjoy the holiday weekend. While this is completely understandable, District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) reminds everyone that we are still in the middle of the dangerous COVID-19 pandemic and precautions still must be taken to avoid further spread.

“Keeping our residents and visitors healthy and safe is imperative,” said Kevin Hughes, Health Officer for DHD#10. “While we realize that re-opening this area is exciting, we also want to still maintain our health and safety practices to help avoid an increase in cases and a surge in our healthcare systems.”

Two counties in DHD#10’s jurisdiction, Newaygo and Oceana, are seeing a spike in COVID-19 cases for several reasons. Many of these cases are due to families gathering, such as during Mother’s Day, where individuals unknowingly spread the virus to multiple family members. Another cause includes individuals that work in counties outside of DHD#10’s ten-county jurisdiction that caught the virus and unknowingly brought it home to their families, in some cases spreading it among three to four generations in a home. Also, more testing is being done in these areas by hospitals and the opening of the drive through testing clinic in Shelby by Northwest Michigan Health Services. DHD#10 is working closely with health and community officials in both counties to provide guidance and assistance to slow the spread.

It is known that COVID-19 can spread rapidly at mass gatherings and in enclosed spaces. As you plan to enjoy the Memorial Day holiday weekend, please keep the following in mind:

- Do your research to make sure that the county(ies) in which you live or plan to visit are in [Region 6 or 8](#). If not, please stay home as outlined in the current executive orders.
- Follow the guidelines set forth in the current executive orders [2020-91](#) (Safeguards to protect Michigan’s workers from COVID-19) and [2020-92](#) (Temporary requirement to suspend activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life). **Gatherings of more than 10 are NOT permitted, even in Regions 6 and 8 in northern Michigan.**
- If you are sick, please stay home to avoid getting others sick.
- Practice good hand washing hygiene – wash hands regularly or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60% or more) if soap and water are not available.
- Clean all “high touch” surfaces every day with household cleaning spray or sanitizing wipes.
- Cover coughs, sneezes and avoid touching your face.



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COUNTIES SERVED:

Crawford
Kalkaska
Lake
Manistee
Mason
Mecosta
Missaukee
Newaygo
Oceana
Wexford



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- Try to think of alternatives to serving meals “buffet” style for your holiday cookouts.
- Wear face coverings when you are inside or can’t maintain at least 6 feet physical distance.
- If you are outdoors, keep those from the same household seated together and distance yourself from others.

Staying safe and healthy is the #1 goal. Following these guidelines will help everyone accomplish this goal while enjoying our beautiful state.

For more information on COVID-19, including guidance and a checklist for businesses that plan to reopen, visit www.dhd10.org/coronavirus.

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