



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO START SHARING SCHOOL OUTBREAK INFORMATION

September 15, 2020 – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced that starting Monday, September 14th, they will begin reporting statewide school outbreak information in an effort to provide accurate and timely information about COVID-19 in Michigan schools.

District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) is one of the many local health departments across the state working closely with MDHHS to provide the data on COVID-19 outbreaks that will be shared weekly. “DHD#10 staff have been working in partnership with local school districts across the 10-county jurisdiction to keep staff and students safe as they have prepared for reopening,” says Dr. Jennifer Morse, Medical Director for DHD#10. “We will continue to work alongside districts throughout the year to provide guidance on maintaining a safe environment, as well as investigate any positive cases and identify close contacts.”

A COVID-19 school outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory-confirmed cases among students or staff of the same school building with onset of symptoms within a 14-day period. These cases are found to be linked to the same setting, during the same time period (e.g., same classroom, school event, school-based extracurricular activity, school transportation), do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts in any other setting other than school.

The information being posted on the MDHHS website each Monday at 3 p.m., will include K-12, college, and university school names, addresses, number of cases and if the cases involved staff, students or both. Students or staff exposed to COVID-19 outside of the school building and are not thought to have spread the virus in the school due to quarantine or self-isolation are not included in the data.

Wearing a mask that covers the mouth and nose, social distancing (maintaining a distance of 6 feet apart), frequent handwashing (using soap for 20 seconds or hand sanitizer) and following capacity restrictions of social gatherings are some of the most effective ways to slow the spread of COVID-19. Michiganders who are sick or have symptoms can get tested at numerous testing sites across the state. Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

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