

COVID-19 CASES TRENDING UPWARDS IN MOST DHD#10 COUNTIES

Increased cases impacting capacity to respond

October 21, 2020 –District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) reports that positive COVID-19 cases are trending upwards throughout the jurisdiction, jumping significantly over the past two weeks in many of the counties served by DHD#10. This sudden increase is impacting the overall capacity for DHD#10 to respond in a timely manner to begin investigations and contact tracing.

Friday, October 16, saw the largest daily case count since COVID-19 first appeared in March. Every county in DHD#10’s ten-county jurisdiction reported cases totaling 64 positive COVID-19 cases in one day. On Monday, October 19, DHD#10 reported 106 positive cases that included numbers from Saturday, Sunday, and Monday combined – that’s 170 cases in a span of four days. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) did report a slowdown of results from a laboratory on Thursday, October 15, that may have contributed to the large numbers on Friday and possibly over the weekend. The capacity to respond quickly to positive cases is significantly impacted when you have such a large number of cases in a short period of time.

“We do our best to respond to positive cases as quickly as possible,” stated Kevin Hughes, Health Officer for DHD#10. “What we are dealing with this week is not only many positive cases, but also a substantially large number of close contacts to each case that must be contacted. For example, one positive case in a school can have upwards of 35 close contacts or more that all must be contacted. We ask for patience and understanding as we adjust staffing and increase our resources to manage our caseload.”

Below is a breakdown of confirmed in each county from August, September, and the first 18 days of October.

CONFIRMED CASES	AUG	SEP	OCT	TOTAL	% Increase between month of Aug. and first 18 days of Oct .
JURISDICTION-WIDE	241	360	486	1087	102%
CRAWFORD	17	12	12	41	-30%
KALKASKA	17	21	24	62	40%
LAKE	13	6	14	33	8%
MANISTEE	20	26	31	77	55%
MASON	22	13	42	77	110%
MECOSTA	30	134	152	316	407%
MISSAUKEE	7	15	14	36	100%
NEWAYGO	47	87	138	272	294%
OCEANA	33	21	41	95	24%
WEXFORD	35	25	18	78	-49%

Now that fall is here and winter is quickly approaching, many of us will find ourselves spending more time indoors. DHD#10 encourages everyone to continue practicing the



MEDIA CONTACT

Jeannine Taylor
Public Information Officer
O: 231-876-3823
C: 231-920-4998
E: jtaylor@dhd10.org



COUNTIES SERVED:

Crawford
Kalkaska
Lake
Manistee
Mason
Mecosta
Missaukee
Newaygo
Oceana
Wexford



www.dhd10.org



www.facebook.com/DHD10

necessary mitigation strategies to help keep ourselves, our families, and our communities safe and healthy. Let's all do our part to help reduce the risk of getting or spreading both COVID-19 and flu this season:

- Stay at home when you are sick and do your best to keep yourself away from other members of your household. Please do not go to school, work, or events/social gatherings if you are sick. Arrange for groceries and medicine to be delivered to your house when you are sick.
- If you find out that you are positive for COVID-19, please try to call your close contacts as soon as possible to let them know. An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting 48 hours (2 days) before the person has symptoms or tests positive.¹ Positive individuals should follow [home isolation guidelines](#) and close contacts should follow [quarantine guidelines](#). By choosing to isolate or quarantine, you are protecting the health of others in the community.
- About 40% of people are asymptomatic (do not have symptoms) but are still capable of spreading the virus. Therefore, it is important for everyone to follow safety protocols as much as possible.
- Close contacts of confirmed and probable cases might be notified through the Trace Force system which is a statewide system that partners with local health departments. This might take up to a couple of days; therefore, if you are told by a family member, friend, co-worker or employer that you may be a close contact, please start quarantining right away, and do not wait for a phone call. Once you receive a phone call, further instructions will be given.
- If you receive a phone call from local or state health department staff or volunteers, please answer the phone and provide as much information as possible. It is important for us to get information quickly and accurately to reduce the risk of others becoming infected.
- Refrain from hosting or attending gatherings that do not follow proper spatial distancing, especially if they do not comply with the current [epidemic orders](#).
- Wear a face covering or mask when you are indoors at a public place or in crowded outdoor areas. Wearing a face covering can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by about 70%.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least twenty seconds.
- Keep a physical distance of 6 feet or more when you are inside or outside.
- Cover coughs and sneezes; avoid touching your face.
- Clean/disinfect all "high touch" surfaces every day with household cleaning spray or wipes.
- Everyone, ages 6 months and above, should get a flu shot this year. It is possible that both COVID-19 and the seasonal flu could be circulating at the same time.
- If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice. An [automated self-checker](#) is also available to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care. Also, testing locations can be found by visiting www.michigan.gov/coronavirustest or by calling 211.

For more information on COVID-19, go to www.dhd10.org/coronavirus. You can also send questions to info@dhd10.org.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>