

COVID-19 CASE SURGE IMPACTING CONTACT TRACING

DHD#10 asking for patience and cooperation

October 30, 2020 –In the span of seven days, District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) reported a total of 413 lab-confirmed and 23 probable COVID-19 cases in our ten-county jurisdiction. With each confirmed and probable case, there are often numerous close contacts that must also be identified and contacted, which falls to public health to complete. While DHD#10 is utilizing assistance from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) TraceForce program, as well as pulling in staff from other divisions within our agency to assist, we have reached capacity and are unable to promptly investigate every case and contact trace. Priority is being given to school aged children, residents and employees of long-term care facilities, hospitals, schools, large group settings, and other higher-risk situations.

DHD#10 is working very hard to reach out to individuals as quickly as possible, but we do not want you to wait to be contacted prior to taking action. DHD#10 is asking the public for patience and to follow these guidelines:

If you were notified that you tested positive for COVID-19:

- [Self-isolate](#) for 10 days. After 10 days, if your symptoms have improved and you have not had a fever for 24 hours (without the use of medications), you may return to normal activities.
- Notify all your [close contacts](#) immediately.
 - A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period* starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

If you were notified that you were a close contact to a positive case:

- [Self-quarantine](#) for 14 days beginning the first full day after the last date of exposure to the positive case.
 - FOR EXAMPLE:
Last exposure date is 10/20. Begin counting quarantine from 10/21 through 11/3. Resume normal activities on 11/4.
- Consider getting tested, especially if you develop symptoms of COVID-19
- If you get tested and results are negative, you still must complete your 14-day quarantine before resuming normal activities.

On October 29, MDHHS released an updated [Epidemic Order](#) for gatherings and face coverings. DHD#10 urges the public to please adhere to this order to help prevent further spread of this highly contagious virus.

“Cases of COVID-19 are higher than they have been at any point in this pandemic and continue to increase at alarming rates. We urge everyone to be empowered and choose to do the right thing by following what is laid out in the Epidemic Order,” stated Dr.



MEDIA CONTACT

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



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www.dhd10.org



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Jennifer Morse, Medical Director for DHD#10. “Now is the time for all of us to take personal responsibility for ourselves, our families, our friends, and our communities to slow the spread of this virus.”

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

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